Octoechos
Tone 1
Sunday Vespers
"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

By the Word and the Spirit, O all-powerful Lord, Thou created all things in goodness, and I was made a reasonable creature, endowed with speech, that I might praise Thy holy name! But by my shameful deeds, I bring it dishonor:// Spare me, I entreat Thee, O Lord.

Remember, my miserable soul, the divine nobility of thy descent, and thine eternal homeland. Always labor to attain them by doing good. Thy destiny lies in higher things; do not be confined by those which pass away. Thy body is but earth, subject to corruption.//Do not let the lower triumph over that which is higher!

Weep fervently over all thou hast done and come before the good Creator in confession. Ask Him to pardon thee before the day of judgment comes,//
lest He bar the doors to thee, wretched soul.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Mary, wondrous and blameless, our pure support, I am in distress, held fast by my many sins. Bring me to the path of repentance by thy strong protection,//for thou art able to do this as the Mother of the almighty God!

The Octoechos

Tone 1 **Sunday Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Saviour, I have fallen into a great abyss because of my sins, and my transgressions weigh me down. Stretch out Thy hand to me as Thou did to Peter, O Lord.// Save me, O God, and have mercy on me.

My thoughts and deeds condemn me, Saviour. Give me the thought of turning back, that I may cry out to Thee://Save me, O God, and have mercy on me!

(To the martyrs)

Lord, by the intercessions of all the saints, and of the Theotokos, grant us Thy peace and have mercy on us,//O only compassionate One!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Pure Virgin, joy of the heavenly hosts, and intercessor for all on earth, save us as we run to thee,//for after God we put our trust in thee, O Theotokos!

The Octoechos

Tone 1 **Monday**

Matins

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

I, the prodigal, was conceived in sin and dare not gaze upon the height of heaven. But with daring, in the face of Thy love for mankind, I cry:// O God, have mercy on me and save me!

Verse*:* Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

If the righteous person is scarcely saved, what will happen to me, a sinner? I have not borne the burden or the heat of the day!// Count me with those who came at the eleventh hour, O God, and save me!

Glory… Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

All spotless Theotokos, blest by the heavens and glorified on earth://Rejoice, unwedded Bride!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance and the angels)*

I have wandered far from Thee in folly, most merciful One, wasting my life like the prodigal, subject to unreasoning passions. But at the intercessions of the angels, compassionate Father,//I entreat Thee, receive me as the prodigal Son and save me!

Verse*:* Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Clothing themselves in Thou, O Lord, the most glorious martyrs were the pride of the arena of suffering and counted worthy of crowns! By their steadfastness, they put to flight the tyrants who tortured them, receiving victory through divine power from heaven! By their prayers, set me free from the invisible enemy,//and save me, O Saviour!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Maiden higher than the hosts of heaven and the spiritual armies, thou, most pure Virgin, are the only one to receive praise rightly from them! Join with them to intercede with thy Son//to deliver me, the only one rightly condemned, from the tyranny of passions!

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Another world awaits thee, my soul: A Judge will soon reveal thy secret and terrible thoughts and deeds! Do not linger, then, among the things that are here. Anticipate the Judgment and cry out to the Judge://Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!

Do not reject me at the testing, my Saviour, though I am held fast by the laziness of sin. Arouse my thoughts to repentance; make me a proven worker of Thy vineyard://Grant me the wages of the eleventh hour and great mercy!

(To the martyrs)

Come, O people! Let us honor Christ's saints with songs and spiritual hymns. They were lights for the world and preachers of the faith; ever-flowing fountains, releasing streams of healing for believers. By their prayers, Christ our God,// grant peace to Thy world, and to our souls, great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

More holy than the holy powers, Lady Theotokos, more precious than all creation, thou bore the Saviour of the world! By thine intercessions, since thou are good,//save us from all error and danger!

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Monday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Miserable wretch that I am, I have spent my whole life in shame that condemns me, O Lord, and like the prodigal Son I humbly cry out to Thee: Heavenly Father, I have sinned. Cleanse me and save me; do not reject me, though I freely departed from Thee,//poor and needy because of my fruitless deeds.

Thou accepted poverty, O Christ, enriching mankind with immortality and purity. Yet I have been made poor by indulging in the pleasures of this life. Grant me the wealth of virtue! Number me with poor Lazarus, and deliver me from the torments of hell//which now await me among the rich.

I have become exceedingly rich in evil. I have loved good fare. In my lifetime I have received the good things: I am condemned to hell, O Lord. I have despised my hungry mind as if it were Lazarus, laid before the gates of Thy divine dispensation.//O Lord, take pity on me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The Lamb Who took away the sin of the world was preached by the great Forerunner. Join with him, o Virgin, in praying for me, that in the hour of judgment, although I am unworthy, I may not be found among the goats,// but accepted at the Lord's right hand as His righteous sheep.

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Saviour, I have fallen into a great abyss because of my sins, and my transgressions weigh me down. Stretch out Thy hand to me as Thou didst to Peter, O Lord.//Save me, O God, and have mercy on me.

My thoughts and deeds condemn me, O Saviour. Give me the thought of turning back, that I may cry out to Thee://Save me, O God, and have mercy on me!

(To the martyrs)

In thy confession of faith in the arenas, O saints, thou spat upon the strength of demons and freed all mankind from delusion! And when thou wert beheaded, Thou cried: May our sacrifice be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, for in our love for Thee, O Lover of mankind,//we have despised this temporal life!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Virgin, worthy of all praise, Moses, with prophetic eyes beheld the mystery that was to take place in thee as he saw the bush that burned, yet was not consumed. For the fire of divinity did not consume thy womb, O pure one. Therefore we pray to thee as the Mother of God,//to ask peace and great mercy for the world.

The Octoechos

Tone 1 **Tuesday**

Matins

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

I, the prodigal, was conceived in sin and dare not gaze upon the height of heaven. But with daring, in the face of Thy love for mankind, I cry://Lord, have mercy on me and save me!

Verse: Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

If the righteous person is scarcely saved, what will happen to me, a sinner? I have not borne the burden or the heat of the day!//Count me with those who came at the eleventh hour, Lord, and save me!

Glory... Now and ever...(Theotokion)

The faithful have an invincible wall in the Theotokos! Come, let us fall before her, for she has boldness before the One Who was born of her,// and dares to approach Him to intercede and save our souls!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Forerunner)*

John, as thou once baptized in the waters of Jordan for the cleansing of all, draw me towards thee as I sink in sin! As a worthy intercessor, wash every stain from me,//ever praying to Him Who loves mankind!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

(to the martyrs)

Saints, as courageous soldiers, thou were of one heart in the faith, unafraid of the threats of the torturers. Thou took up the cross and followed Christ with ready minds; Thou completed thy course and received victory from heaven! Glory to Him Who strengthens thee and awards thee crowns!// Glory to Him Who through thee grants healing to all!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

John leaped in his mother's womb, pure Virgin, recognizing God borne in thee, he worshipped in faith! I entreat thee: Join the Forerunner to beseech the Word Who took flesh from thee,//praying that He may save thy servant.

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Another world awaits thee, O my soul: A judge will soon reveal thy secret and terrible thoughts and deeds! Do not linger, then, among the things that are here. Anticipate the judgment and cry out to the Judge://Be merciful to me, O Lord, and save me!

Do not reject me at the testing, my Saviour, though I am held fast by the laziness of sin. Arouse my thoughts to repentance; make me a proven worker of Thy vineyard://Grant me the wages of the eleventh hour and great mercy!

(To the martyrs)

These soldiers of the great King opposed the commands of tyrants and fearlessly despised their torments! They trampled on all delusion and were crowned most fittingly.//Now they ask the Saviour for peace and great mercy for our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Virgin, worthy of all praise, Moses, with prophetic eyes beheld the mystery that was to take place in thee, as he saw the bush that burned, yet was not consumed. For the fire of divinity did not consume thy womb, O pure one. Therefore we pray to thee as the Mother of the Lord,//to ask peace and great mercy for the world.

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Tuesday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the cross)

O Christ our Lord, nailed as Man to the cross, Thou didst made mankind divine. Thou killed the serpent, the source of all evil, setting us free from the curse of the tree. In Thy compassion, Thou took the curse upon Thyself,//coming to grant the world blessing and great mercy.

Though Thou art above all in honor, O Master, Thou accepted dishonor in Thy goodness: Thou endured a shameful death on the Cross, dying in the flesh that mankind might receive immortality,//and return to his original life.

Most precious Cross, where the sins of all the faithful were purified, thou are the might of all who hold authority, sanctifying all who venerate thee and glorify Christ. In His compassion, He stretched out His pure hands upon thee,//gathering into one all the ends of the earth!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When thou beheld thy Lord and Master hanging on the Cross, His side pierced with a spear, thou cried out in mourning, O pure Mother: Woe is me! How Thou suffered, O Lover of mankind,//to take away the sufferings of the world!

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

The Cross was planted on the place of the skull, and from the eternal spring that flowed from the side of the Saviour,//it blossomed for us the flower of immortality!

The precious Cross of the Saviour is our impregnable wall,//for all of us who have put our hope in it are saved!

(To the martyrs)

How good is thy trade, O saints: Thou shed blood and gained heaven. Smitten for a time, thou rejoice now in eternity! Thy trade is good indeed! By forsaking corruption, thou inherited incorruption.//With the angels thou ceaselessly praise the consubstantial trinity.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When she beheld the Lamb hanging upon the Cross the undefiled Virgin lamented and cried: O my sweet Child, what is this strange and most glorious sight? How is it that He Who holds all things in His hand//is nailed in the flesh to the wood?

Octoechos

Tone 1 **Wednesday**

Matins

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy Commonwealth.

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for He is holy!

At Thy crucifixion, O Christ, the tyrant was laid low, and the power of the enemy was trampled. Glory, to Thee, for neither an angel nor a man,//but the Lord himself has saved us!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion of the Cross)*

We have obtained a mediator in thee, O most pure one, and we are released from danger by thy supplications. We are guarded in all things by the Cross of thy Son://therefore we rightly magnify thee!

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Thou stretched out Thy hands upon the Cross, merciful One, gathering those far from Thee to praise Thy abundant goodness. Behold now Thine inheritance, and with Thy precious Cross//destroy those who fight against us!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

We beseech Thee, O Lord of mankind, to accept as supplication the suffering which the saints endured for Thy sake, O Lord,//and heal all our infirmities!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the spotless Virgin beheld the Lamb and Shepherd lying dead on the Cross, she cried out in tears, lamenting as a Mother: How shall I praise Thine ineffable condescension, my Son,//and Thy voluntary passion, God most good?

Octoechos

Tone 1 **Wednesday**

Matins Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

Thou were nailed to the tree, granting life to us.//We ever honor Thee as Saviour and Lord!

Through Thy Cross, O Christ, angels and mankind have become one flock and one Church! Heaven and earth rejoice!//O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the Martyrs)

No tribulation, threat or hunger, persecution, fire, sword or savage beast could separate the holy martyrs from God! They were bound by His love and lived as exiles in this world! Their suffering has won them a glorious prize: They inherited the heavenly Kingdom//where they ceaselessly pray for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As she stood beside Thy Cross, O Word of God, the ewe-lamb, Thy blameless Mother, sadly cried aloud: How can Thou die on the Cross, my Son? Woe is me, my sweetest Light! Where has Thy beautiful face now gone?//Fairer still than all mortals!

The Octoechos

Tone 1 Wednesday

Vespers

"Lord I Call…"

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Glorious apostles of Christ, divinely inspired disciples, thou found the Lord, and taught the universe, becoming mediators between God and mankind. Thou wert united to Jesus and plainly proclaimed Him to the world//as both God and perfect Man.

O Most wise apostles of Christ, divinely inspired disciples who taught the universe: Strengthen and help me by thy prayers and holy teachings. Help me to walk at all times on the narrow way,//that I may attain the great wealth of paradise!

I shall extol the company chosen by God: O Peter, the first apostle, Paul, James, Andrew and Philip, Simon, Bartholomew and Thomas, and Matthew, Mark, Luke and John who wrote the Gospels, and with them, the rest of the seventy,//for they were eye-witnesses of the Word and proclaimed Him!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The stormy sea of my transgressions surrounds me; I turn to the calm safety of thy prayers, O Mother of God.//I cry out: stretch out thy mighty arm and save me, pure Lady!

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Lyre of the apostles, many strings moved by the Holy Spirit: Thou destroyed the cults of evil demons, proclaiming the one God! Thou delivered the peoples from the delusion of idols,//teaching them to worship the consubstantial Trinity!

Let us worthily praise with one accord Peter and Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Andrew, Thomas and Bartholomew, Simon the Canaanite, James and Philip,//and the whole company of the disciples.

(To the martyrs)

O Martyrs, worthy of praise, the earth did not cover thee, but heaven received thee, opening to thee the gates of paradise, where thou dwell, delighting in the tree of life.//Entreat Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O Virgin, joy of the patriarchs, delight of the apostles and martyrs,//and the protection of us, thy servants.

Octoechos
Tone 1 **Thursday**
Matins

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

Wise fishers of all the inhabited earth, thou received from God the gift of compassion for all people! Intercede for us who cry aloud: Lord, save Thy people and Thine inheritance! Through the apostles set free our souls//from the trials and dangers that surround them!

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Confounding the crafty wiles of the orators by the net of the word held by the wood of the Cross, the fishermen brought light to the people that they might reverently glorify Thee, the true God! Therefore we cry to Thee, for Thou gave them power: Glory to the Father and to the Son! Glory to the consubstantial Trinity!//Glory to Him Who enlightened the world through His apostles!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos, full of grace, thou conceived the Fire of divinity without being burned, and thou bore the Lord, the Fount of life!//Save from death those who magnify thee!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

(to St. Nicholas)

Father Nicholas, thou were seen when thou lived in Myra: Thou appear to us now through the fragrant anointing of thy wonders. Pour forth everlasting myrrh for those who through thine intercession//celebrate thy memory with hymns!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints, the God of Israel!

Come, let us make our supplications to the martyrs of Christ, for they plead for our salvation! Let us approach them with faith and love, for they hold out the gift of healing, and as guardians of the faith,//they frighten the hosts of demons!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Lady Theotokos, the apostles of God proclaimed thine ineffable childbearing in divine teachings. They taught all mankind rightly to honor thee!// Through their intercessions, save those who magnify thee!

Octoechos
Tone 1

Thursday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

Lyre of the apostles, many strings moved by the Holy Spirit: Thou destroyed the cults of evil demons, proclaiming the one God! Thou delivered the peoples from the delusion of idols,//teaching them to worship the consubstantial Trinity!

Let us worthily praise with one accord Saints Peter and Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Andrew, Thomas and Bartholomew, Simon the Canaanite, James and Philip,//with the whole company of the disciples!

(To the martyrs)

Martyrs, rejoice in the Lord: Thou hast fought the good fight! Thou resisted kings and conquered tyrants! Thou were not alarmed by fire or sword! When wild beasts were devouring thy bodies, thou sent up a hymn to Christ with the angels! Thou received thy crowns from the heavens, beseeching that peace may be granted to the world,//and to our souls, the great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

Let us praise the Virgin in prophetic style: She is the golden jar of manna, the bush that was not consumed, the holy table and the throne, the golden candlestick that held the light, the unhewn mountain,//the ark of sanctification, and the gate of God!

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of the Cross)

Thou stretched out Thy pure hands upon the Cross, O Christ, calling to Thyself those that were far, and bringing them near. Gather me also to Thee, for I am the captive of my passions, and grant me repentance,//purifying me from every stain made by passion.

Thou lifted up Thy hands upon the Cross, O Christ, and Thy fingers were soaked with blood in Thy desire to deliver Adam, the work of Thy hands, held in the kingdom of hell by his transgressions.//Thou raised him by Thy mighty power, O Lover of mankind!

Though by nature Thou art changeless God, not subject to suffering, unoriginate and sinless Christ, Thou were crucified with evil doers for our sake, O Saviour. The sun was darkened, unable to behold the sight,//and the whole earth shook, acknowledging Thee, the Creator of the world!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

At the sight of her Son crucified, the Virgin lamented with tears in her eyes: My sweetest Child and Lord, Thou wert given bitter vinegar for Thy pain and suffering! Now, as the righteous Judge,//we await Thy Resurrection in all Thy might and power!

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

The Cross was planted on the place of the skull, and from the eternal spring that flowed from the side of the Saviour,//it blossomed for us the flower of immortality!

The precious Cross of the Saviour is our impregnable wall,//for all of us who have put our hope in it are saved!

(To the martyrs)

How good is thy trade, O saints: Thou shed blood and gained heaven. Smitten for a time, thou rejoice now in eternity! Thy trade is good indeed! By forsaking corruption, thou inherited incorruption.//With the angels thou ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As she beheld Thee wrongfully slain, O Christ, the Virgin lamented and cried out to Thee: O my sweetest Child, how is it that Thou suffer unjustly? Thou hung the whole earth upon the waters: How can Thou hang upon the wood? I, Thy mother and handmaid, entreat Thee,//most merciful Benefactor, do not abandon me!

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy Commonwealth.

Verse: Extol the Lord our God, worship at His footstool for He is holy!

At Thy crucifixion, O Christ, the tyrant was laid low, and the power of the enemy was trampled. Glory, to Thee, for neither an angel nor a man,// but the Lord himself has saved us!

Glory… Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As I behold Thee, my gracious Son and all-powerful God, stripped naked and dead upon the wood, I am pierced through the heart and deeply troubled! Cried the blameless Virgin, lifting her voice and lamenting. Let us sing her praises as the Mother of the Lord,//and so rightly glorify her with faith!

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

When Thou were nailed of Thine own will upon the Cross, compassionate Lord, Thou refashioned us in Thy divinity and destroyed the corruptible dragon, the enemy of mankind. Establish even now the Orthodox faith among people,// destroying all heresies by Thy precious Cross.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

Clothing themselves in Thee, O Lord, the most glorious martyrs were the pride of the arena of suffering and counted worthy of crowns! By their steadfastness, they put to flight the transgressors who tortured them, receiving the victory through divine power from heaven. By their prayers, set me free from the invisible enemy,//and save me, O Saviour!

Glory… Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the spotless Virgin beheld the Lamb and Shepherd lying dead on the Cross, she cried out in tears, lamenting as a Mother: "How shall I praise Thine ineffable condescension, O my Son,//and Thy voluntary passion, God most good?

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

Thou were nailed to the tree, granting life to us.//We ever honor Thee as Saviour and Lord! Through Thy Cross, O Christ, angels and men have become one flock and one Church! Heaven and earth rejoice!// O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the Martyrs)

No tribulation, threat or hunger, persecution, fire, sword or savage beast could separate the holy martyrs from God! They were bound by His love and lived as exiles in this world! Their suffering has won them a glorious prize: They inherited the heavenly kingdom//where they ceaselessly pray for our souls!

Glory… Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou were lifted on the Cross like an innocent lamb, compassionate One! Thou were willingly slain, O sweetest Child! The spotless ewe-lamb cried with tears when she saw the Lord upon the Tree. As for me, my heart is on fire and I am wounded,//but I sing the praises of Thine infinite mercy!

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the saints)

O Lord, by the intercessions of all the saints, and of the Theotokos, grant us Thy peace and have mercy on us,//O only compassionate One!

In Thy confession of faith in the arenas, O saints, thou spat upon the strength of demons and freed all mankind from delusion! And when thou wert beheaded, thou cried: May our sacrifice be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, for in our love for Thee, O Lover of mankind,//we have despised this temporal life!

How good is thy trade, O saints: Thou shed blood and gained heaven. Smitten for a time, thou rejoice now in eternity! Thy trade is good indeed! By forsaking corruption, thou inherited incorruption.//With the angels thou ceaselessly praise the consubstantial Trinity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Let us praise the Virgin Mary! The gate of heaven, the glory of the world! The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful! She was born of man, yet gave birth to God! She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the godhead! She destroyed the wall of enmity! She commenced the peace, she opened the kingdom! Since she is our foundation of faith, our Defender is the Lord Whom she bore! Have Courage! Have courage! O People of God! For Christ will destroy our enemies//since He is all powerful.

The Octoechos
Tone 1

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

O Martyrs, worthy of praise, the earth did not cover thee, but heaven received thee, opening to thee the gates of paradise, where thou dwellest, delighting in the tree of life.//Entreat Christ to grant our souls peace and great mercy!

(For the departed)

What earthly pleasure is not marked by sorrow? What glory on this earth remains unchanged? All things are feeble shadows and deluding dreams, for

in a single moment, death shall take all away. But in the light of Thy countenance, O Christ, and in the joy of Thy beauty, give rest to those whom Thou hast chosen,//since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

No one, no one, is sinless except Thee, O immortal One. Therefore, as the compassionate God, establish Thy servants in Thy light in the company with the angelic choir. In Thy goodness, pass over their transgressions,//and grant them forgiveness.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The great miracle by which thou gave birth, O Bride of God, is incomprehensible indeed. All the prophets foretold the conception, which is beyond words and understanding, and the birth of thy Son, Who has saved the world, for He is the Lover of mankind!

Octoechos

Tone 1 **Saturday**

Matins

(After the 1st reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the saints)*

As courageous soldiers, O Saints, thou wert of one heart in the faith, unafraid of the threats of the torturers. Thou took up the Cross and followed Christ with ready minds; thou completed thy course and received the victory from heaven! Glory to Him Who strengthens thee and awards thee thy crowns!// Glory to Him Who through thee grants healing to us all!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

We beseech Thee, O Lord, lover of mankind, to accept as our prayer the suffering which the saints endured for Thy sake, O Lord,//and heal all our infirmities!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When Gabriel greeted thee, O Virgin, he cried out like the righteous David, for in thee, O Sacred Ark, was the Master of all incarnate. Thou were shown

to be more spacious than the heavens, for thou bore thy Creator! Glory to Him Who dwells in thee! Glory to Him Who comes forth from thee!//Glory to Him Who frees us through thy birth giving!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(for the departed)*

Thou hast destroyed the power of death, O Christ, pouring immortality upon all men! Those who believe in Thee will not perish, but in Thee will find everlasting life. Give rest, therefore, O Lord to the souls of Thy servants, through the prayers of the Theotokos, and make them worthy to be with the saints,// granting them mercy and Resurrection!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou have chosen and taken, O Lord!

Give rest, in a place of light with the choir of the righteous to those who have departed and stand before Thee, Saviour. For in Thee, O Lover of mankind, have they put their trust: Accept in Thy compassion the prayers of those who come after them,//and make us worthy, before the end to stand before Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

In thee, O of grace, all creation exults, because it beholds in thee a wonder of wonders! For thou conceived without seed and ineffably gave birth to Him upon Whom the commanders of the hosts of angels dare not gaze://Beseech Him that our souls may be saved!

Octoechos
Tone 1

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

Come, people! let us honor Christ's saints with songs and spiritual hymns. They were lights for the world and preachers of the faith; ever-flowing fountains, releasing streams of healing for believers. By their prayers, Christ our God,// grant peace to Thy world, and to our souls, the great mercy!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

We entreat Thee, O Saviour, give the departed a share in the life of blessedness with Thee. Give them rest in the tabernacles of the righteous, in the mansions of Thy saints, in the heavenly dwellings.// In Thy tender mercy pass over their offences, granting them rest!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

Thy promised blessings, O Saviour, are higher than all visible things: They are those which eye has not seen nor ear has heard, nor have they ever entered into the heart of man! Give those who have departed to Thee a share in these blessings,// and grant them life eternal!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

Pray to Christ thy Child, O Virgin Mother, that He may grant forgiveness of sins to thy servants who with true faith in the teachings of the Church proclaim thee to be the Theotokos,// counting them worthy of the radiance and glory of the saints in His Kingdom!

Octoechos
Tone 2
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Pour out streams of mercy on me and waters of goodness from the well of Thy compassion, good Father, and Son, Word of the Father, and the Holy Spirit: Uncreated Nature, accept our prayers and supplications. Grant forgiveness to all who have sinned//for Thou are the good God and Lover of mankind.

Thou art bountiful, merciful, and generous, according to Thy divine nature, Christ our Saviour. Therefore we ever cry to Thee as we fall to our knees in prayer: Pardon and forgive the many sins which we, Thy servants have committed,//for Thou art the good God and Lover of mankind.

Saviour, in Thy desire to save the entire human race, Thou put on flesh and become a Man. Now save us who honor Thy commandments, for Thou didst not come to save the righteous but to deliver us, through the grace of divine baptism, when we were bound in iniquity by our many sins,//for Thou art the good God and Lover of mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The hosts of angels sing the thrice holy praises of thy Son, O pure Virgin. For thou wert His fiery throne, a living chamber for the King and divine bridge leading from earth to heaven. We sing Rejoice! to thee with the archangel Gabriel,//for thou gavest birth to the Source of joy!

The Octoechos
Tone 2
Sunday Vespers

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

I have sinned against Thee, Christ our Saviour, like the prodigal Son. O Father, accept me in repentance.//Have mercy on me, O God.

I cry to Thee, Christ our Saviour, with the voice of the publican. Be merciful to me, as to him.// Have mercy on me, O God.

(To the martyrs)

O Martyrs, thou did not seek for the things of the earth, and so were made worthy of heavenly joy. Thou became fellow-citizens with the angels.//O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O Mary Theotokos, temple which cannot be destroyed! Temple, even more, of holiness, as the prophet cried://Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness**!**

Octoechos
Tone 2

Monday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading from the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(stikhera of repentance)*

My transgressions have risen up against me like the waves of the sea; I am tossed as a boat on the deep by the storm of my many sins! Guide me through repentance to a calm harbor,//and save me, O Lord!

Verse: Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath!

Lord, I am a barren tree, bearing no fruit of contrition. I fear the axe and the unquenchable fire. Therefore I pray to Thee: Before that distress befalls me,//turn me back and save me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou art a fountain of compassion, O Theotokos: Behold a sinful people, and grant mercy to us! Reveal, as always, thy might! As we trust in thee, we cry out: Rejoice!//As once did Gabriel, the leader of the heavenly hosts!

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(stikhera to the angels)*

We run beneath thy protection with love most holy choirs of bodiless angels. Entreat the good God and Master to spare us in the hour of judgment; to deliver us from the bitterness of torment,//from the demons of dark passion and every temptation.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

The saints were clothed in Thee as Thou clothe the heavens with the clouds. They endured the tortures of transgressors in this world and laid low the error of idolatry.//By their prayers, Saviour, set us free from the invisible enemy and save us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Who has heard of a Mother who is a Virgin? Or of a Virgin who is a Mother? Thou art wonderful in both ways, O Theotokos!//Therefore we magnify thee in faith.

Octoechos
Tone 2

Monday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

When I think of my detestable and horrible deeds, I fly for refuge to thy compassion, imitating the publican, the weeping harlot and the prodigal son. So I fall before Thee, O merciful One: Before Thou condemn me, O my God//rather spare me and have mercy on me!

Overlook my transgressions, O Lord born of the Virgin. Cleanse my heart, making it a temple of the Holy Spirit! Do not make me as nothing before Thy face,//since Thou hast boundless mercy!

(To the martyrs)

Suffering for Christ to the point of death, passion-bearing martyrs, thou delivered thy souls into heaven to the hand of God, while thy relics are watched over here on earth. Priests and kings and all peoples venerate them, and we, being taught, cry out according to the custom://Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

Like a fruitful olive tree, the Virgin brought forth Thee, the Fruit of life, to offer as food to all the world//Thy great and rich mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Monday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Thou alone art without sin, O Christ, Thou alone art forbearing. Thou alone art a fount of goodness: Behold my affliction; behold my distress. Anoint the sores left by my wounds and in Thy mercy save Thy servant, that driving away the clouds of despondency//I may glorify Thee, O my good Saviour.

Look, my humble soul: behold what thou hast done; behold thy blasphemy. Look upon thy nakedness. Alas for my desolation! Thou will be cut off from God and from the angels, cast out into the endless torment of hell. But be sober, arise, make haste and cry: Saviour, I have sinned.//Forgive me, and save me!

I have fearfully defiled my body; I have corrupted my soul and heart with base reasoning. I have wounded all my senses, I have profaned my eyes and stained my ears. My mouth is polluted with speaking. My whole being is a complete reproach. Therefore I fall down before Thee and cry: O Christ my Master, I have sinned against Thee.//I have sinned, forgive me, and save me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

My humble soul is assaulted by many sorrows, passions and terrible afflictions; I run to thee, O Theotokos! Be my pilot on the sea of life, O unwedded Maiden. Quiet the raging waters which surround me, shelter me with thy protecting veil,//and guide me to the tranquil harbor of repentance.

Octoechos
Tone 2

Monday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

I have sinned against Thee, O Christ our Saviour, like the prodigal son. Father, accept me in repentance.//Have mercy on me, O God.

I cry to Thee, O Christ our Saviour, with the voice of the publican: Be merciful to me, as to him;//have mercy on me, O God.

(To the martyrs)

By the holy martyrs praying for us and singing the praises of Christ, all error has come to an end,//and mankind is being saved by faith.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

I put all my trust in thee, O Mother of God://Shelter me beneath thy veil.

(After the 1st reading from the Psalter):
Sessional Hymns *(stikhera of repentance)*

Think upon the trial of that fearful day, and tremble, O my soul! Weep before the retribution of eternal torment crying with repentance://I have sinned, O God, have mercy on me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath!

I search my conscience and find it condemned; I am afraid of Thy fearful throne of judgment, O Lord. I find no salvation in my works. But as Thou hast a wealth of compassion, O Christ our God,//have mercy on me and save me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We magnify thee, and cry out, O Theotokos: Rejoice, for thou art the staff from which sprang forth without seed//the God Who destroyed death on the Tree.

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter):
Sessional Hymns *(stikhera to the Forerunner)*

Thou baptized the bountiful source of compassion into the waters of the Jordan, O John; therefore I fervently cry to thee: Guide me towards the safe harbor of life by thy prayers,//for through my many passions, I sink daily in the sea of this world!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints, the God of Israel!

Thou have made Thy saints shine brighter than gold, O Christ, and glorified Thy holy ones. They cry out to Thee on our behalf, Good One: Direct our lives as the Lover of mankind, and let our prayer arise as incense,//for Thou alone rest among the saints.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Who has ever seen or heard of a mother bearing her own Creator? Or a Virgin giving milk to the One Who feeds all flesh? What wonder! Thy womb, O Theotokos, is revealed as the throne of the cherubim!//Wherefore we beseech thee to intercede for our souls.

Octoechos
Tone 2

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

I have surpassed all people in sin; from whom can I learn repentance? If I sigh like the publican, I feel I will burden the heavens! If I shed tears like the harlot, I pollute the earth with my tears!//But grant me remission of sins, O God, and save me!

Overlook my transgressions, O Lord born of the Virgin, and cleanse my heart, making it a temple of the Most Holy Spirit! Do not make me as nothing before Thy face,//since Thou hast boundless mercy!

(To the martyrs)

When the holy martyrs received the Cross of Christ as an invincible weapon, they brought all the devil's power to naught! When they received heavenly crowns, they became a rampart for us,//interceding with Christ on our behalf!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O Mary Theotokos, temple which cannot be destroyed! Temple, even more, of holiness, as the prophet cried:// Holy is Thy temple, it is wonderful in righteousness!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Tuesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

When the Sun and Word of God set upon the Cross, the sky was darkened, unable to endure its own light. The earth quaked and the rocks were split; the curtain of the temple was torn in two. The graves were opened and the dead arose. Hell surrendered those held below: the devils were defeated,//and for all mankind sleep took the place of death!

When the good thief saw Thee, O Christ, the only fruitful Vine, he was most clever, and stole forgiveness of his ancient sins, speaking softly with grace. Let us all make haste to do as he did, and cry://Remember us also, Lover of mankind!

Thy Cross shines indeed like a star in the Church, O Christ, burning demons while giving light to the faithful! It puts to shame those who crucified Thee, whose ancestors held enslaved in Egypt, were led out by the wood which foreshadowed the Cross,//and were satisfied in the wilderness with honey from the rock!

Glory… Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The sun was shaded and darkened by the blinding light of the Cross. Thine all-pure Mother cried out as she beheld Thee: This holy light overpowers and shatters darkness; it destroys the evil powers! It makes the righteous joyful and jubilant! This light of lights is almighty and cleansing,// purifying the righteous and making them stronger!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Save me, O Saviour Christ, by the power of the Cross, and have mercy on me//O God, who saved Peter in the sea!

Let Him be crucified! Cried those who had always enjoyed Thy blessings, and instead of the Benefactor they asked to receive back an evil-doer! But keeping silent, O Christ, Thou endured their insolence,//in Thy desire to suffer and to save us, as the Lover of mankind!

(To the martyrs)

O Martyrs, thou didst not seek for the things of the earth and so were made worthy of heavenly joy. Thou became fellow-citizens with the angels.//O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Suffering greatly when thy Son and God was crucified, thou moaned and cried aloud with weeping: Woe is me, my sweetest Child! How unjustly thou suffer//in Thy desire to save Adam!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading from the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

Thou hast wrought salvation in the midst of the earth, O Christ God. Thou stretched out Thine all-pure hands upon the Cross; Thou gathered together all the nations//who cry aloud to Thee: Glory to Thee, O Lord!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Through Thine Own goodness, we offer Thee Thy life-giving Cross in prayer: Save Thy people and all in authority; grant them Thy peace through the prayers of the Theotokos,//only Lover of mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Beholding Thee, O Christ, stretched dead upon the tree, Thy Virgin Mother lamented bitterly and cried: "O My Son, what is this awesome mystery? How does He, Who gives eternal life to all//die a shameful death of His Own will upon the Cross?

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

Like the thief, I confess Thee, and cry to Thee, good One: Remember me in Thy kingdom, Lord, and number me with him,//since for our sake Thou freely took upon Thyself the suffering of the world.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

Blessed is the earth that was drenched with thy blood, martyrs of the Lord, and holy the tombs that received thy bodies! Thou made a spectacle of the enemy in the arena, proclaiming Christ with boldness! We entreat thee to pray to Him, for He is good,//that He may save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

What great wonder! The Virgin cried out as she beheld her Son taken down from the Cross: He Who carries the whole world in the hollow of His hand, submits to the passion;//The Judge is condemned Who grants forgiveness to all mankind!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

Let Him be crucified! Cried those who had always enjoyed Thy blessings, and instead of the Benefactor they asked to receive back an evil-doer! But keeping silent, O Christ, Thou endured their insolence,//in Thy desire to suffer and to save us, as the Lover of mankind!

Becoming poor by Thine own free will, Thou bore Adam's poverty, O Christ God, and came on earth incarnate of the Virgin: Thou accepted the Cross that Thou might free us from the bondage of the enemy!//O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the martyrs)

A multitude of Thy martyrs entreats Thee, O Christ://Have mercy on us, as the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the lawless people, O Saviour, put Thee, the Life of all, on the wood of the cross, Thy pure and blameless Mother stood by and cried out weeping: "Woe is me, my sweet Child, the light of my eyes! How can Thou bear to be nailed to the Cross between evil-doers?//O Thou who hung the earth upon the waters!"

Octoechos
Tone 2

Wednesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(stikhera to the holy apostles)

As streams of the Spirit, dividing and going forth from Eden thou watered the whole earth, O disciples of the Lord. Thou plowed and planted with the Word of salvation, reaping an abundant harvest of the souls of the saved// storing them as a reasonable wealth in spiritual treasuries.

Stars of the spiritual east; O shining lights of the sun: Thou announced Him to all mankind, dispersing the night of error. Free my heart from the darkness of passion and sensual things abandoned to passionate vices and as eye-witnesses of the Lord,//entreat Him to enlighten our minds.

As new tablets of grace, truly inscribed by God; as living scrolls initiated into His mysteries, holding the word of salvation written with the finger of the Father thou traveled over the ends of the earth, showing the Orthodox Faith clearly to all mankind://The path leading to heaven!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The Word, equal in honor with the Father and the Holy Spirit, shone forth on earth in these last days as the great sun coming from the Virgin. He sent thee, His glorious apostles, as rays of the dawn, to enlighten those in the darkness of error with the light of faith,//leading them by Thy divine teachings!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Saviour, Thou hast magnified throughout the world the names of Thy chief apostles, for they learned heavenly mysteries and granted wholeness to mankind! Even only their shadow healed passions! One, a fisherman, performed miracles, the other, a Hebrew, explained the teachings of grace.//Because of them, O merciful One, grant us great mercy!

Our unjust deeds have become our enemies, and we run to Thee, the existing God. We offer Thee the words of Thy disciple: Save us, O Lord, before we perish! Show Thyself now to our enemies, for by the prayers of Thine apostles Thou protect Thy people and save them from danger, overlooking all their sins in Thy great goodness.//O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the martyrs)

Great is the glory thou obtained by faith, O saints! Thou not only defeated the enemy in thy sufferings, but even after death thou still drive out spirits,

healing the sick, O physicians of our souls and bodies!//Entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As a fruitful olive tree, the Virgin bore Thee, the Fruit of life,//Who brought forth the fruit of great and rich mercy for the world.

Octoechos

Tone 2

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading from the Psalter):

Sessional Hymns *(to the apostles)*

O Christ our God, in Thine ineffable love for mankind, Thou made fisherman wiser than the orators! Thou sent them as preachers throughout the earth: Through them, strengthen Thy Church and bless the faithful,//for Thou alone are merciful and love mankind.

Verse: Their voice has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

The fishermen caught the nations in their net and taught the ends of the earth to worship Thee, O Christ our God, together with the Father and the Spirit. Through them, strengthen Thy Church and bless the faithful,//for Thou alone are merciful and love mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Through thee, Ever-Virgin Theotokos, we have become partakers of the divine nature, for thou gave birth to the incarnate God for our sake.//Therefore we all devoutly magnify thee!

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymns *(to St. Nicholas & All saints)*

By the light shining from thy miracles, O Nicholas, thou enlighten all on the earth, dispersing the gloom of affliction, And driving away approaching dangers,// for thou are a most fervent intercessor!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

Apostles, martyrs and prophets, holy hierarchs, saints and all righteous ones: Having fought the good fight and kept the faith thou hast boldness towards the Saviour. Intercede for us with Him for He is good.//We pray that He may save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

I fall before thee, O all-pure Virgin, for thou alone conceived God without seed, Remaining a pure virgin after this awesome child-bearing! Wherefore, I cry to thee with faith: //"Preserve me from all passion, illness and tribulation!"

Octoechos
Tone 2

Thursday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of the apostles)

O Saviour, Thou hast magnified throughout the world the names of Thy chief apostles, for they learned heavenly mysteries and granted wholeness to mankind! On earth a touch of their shadow healed passions! One, a fisherman, performed miracles, the other, a Hebrew, explained the teachings of grace.//Because of them, O merciful One, grant us great mercy!

Our unjust deeds have become our enemies, and we run to Thee, the living God. We offer Thee the words of Thy disciple: Save us, Lord, before we perish! Show Thyself now to our enemies, for by the prayers of Thine apostles Thou protect Thy people and save them from danger, overlooking all their sins in Thy great goodness.//O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the martyrs)

Every city and country honors thy relics, victorious martyrs, for having struggled lawfully, thou won heavenly crowns! Thou art the joy of priests;//the victory of kings and the adornment of churches!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

Joy of all the afflicted, patron of the wronged and sustainer of the poor, comfort of strangers and haven of the storm-tossed, visitation of the sick, protection and aid of the oppressed and staff to the blind: Mother of the most high God! We all fall before thee and cry://Rescue us from all evil!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

O Saviour, the sun was darkened in fear, seeing Thee nailed to the Cross. The curtain of the temple was torn in two. The earth quaked; the rocks shattered with trembling, unable to bear the sight of the Creator and God, suffering of His Own will upon the wood,//shamefully treated by lawless men.

After the snake of all evil lifted Thee unlawfully upon the Cross, O Lover of mankind, he was cast down forever on the earth, utterly overthrown and prostrate, he lay a fallen corpse. Adam's curse was loosed, and the condemned was saved. Therefore we entreat Thee to save us and have mercy on us,//making us worthy of Thy kingdom!

O Saviour, when Thou wert lifted up on the Cross and Thy side pierced with a spear, the sun hid itself, not wanting to behold Thee, O sinless One. The earth quaked; the rocks split in fear! Thou endured shameful treatment, yet the whole creation cried out to Thee: Glory to Thy crucifixion, O Word,//by which Thou hast saved all, O Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the pure ewe saw her Lamb led willingly to the slaughter, she cried out with weeping: Do Thou hasten to leave me, Thy Mother, childless, O Christ? What have Thou done to suffer like this?// I will sing and glorify Thy great and ineffable goodness, O Lover of mankind!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Save me, O Saviour Christ, by the power of the Cross and have mercy on me,//
O God Who saved Peter in the sea!

Let him be crucified! Cried those who had always enjoyed Thy blessings and instead of the benefactor they asked to receive back an evil-doer! But, keeping silent, O Christ, Thou endured their insolence,//in Thy desire to suffer and to save us, as the Lover of mankind!

(to the martyrs)

O Martyrs, thou didst not seek for the things of the earth and so were made worthy of heavenly joy. Thou became fellow-citizens with the angels.//O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)* *To the special melody Joseph of Arimathea*

When the lawless people, O Saviour, put Thee, the Life of all, on the wood, Thy pure and blameless Mother stood by and cried out weeping: Woe is me, my sweet Child, the light of my eyes! How can Thou bear to be nailed to the Cross between evil-doers?//For Thou hung the earth upon the waters?

Octoechos

Friday **Matins**

Tone 2

(After the 1st reading from the Psalter):
Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

Thou hast wrought salvation in the midst of the earth, O Christ God. Thou stretched out Thine all-pure hands upon the Cross; Thou have gathered together all the nations//who cry aloud to Thee: Glory to Thee, O Lord!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for He is holy!

Through Thine Own goodness, we offer Thee Thy life-giving Cross in prayer: Save Thy people and all in authority, grant them peace through the prayers of the Theotokos,//O only Lover of mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The ewe Lamb and Virgin cried out as she beheld the dead Christ: "How terrible is this murder! O Sun, hide thy light, for the Creator of all is willingly put to death and the only Lord of the bodiless angels is seen condemned!

(After the 2nd reading from the Psalter):
Sessional Hymn *(to the saints)*

Like the thief, I confess Thee, and cry to Thee, O good One: Remember me in Thy kingdom, Lord, and number me with him,//since for our sake Thou freely took upon Thyself the passion.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

The saints were clothed in Thee as Thou clothe the heavens with clouds. They endured the tortures of transgressors in this world and laid low the error of idolatry.// By their prayers, O Saviour, set us free from the invisible enemy and save us

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

She who bore Thee without seed stood by Thy Cross unable to endure the sight of Thy suffering unjustly! She cried out to Thee with weeping and lamentation: "My sweet Child, how do Thou suffer, for by nature Thou art untouchable? //Wherefore I sing the praises of Thy great goodness!"

Octoechos
Tone 2

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

Let him be crucified! Cried those who had always enjoyed Thy blessings, and instead of the Benefactor they asked to receive back an evil-doer! But keeping

silent, Christ, Thou endured their insolence,//in Thy desire to suffer and to save us, as the Lover of mankind!

Becoming poor by Thine Own free will, Thou bore Adam's poverty, Christ God, and came on earth incarnate of a Virgin: Thou accepted the Cross that Thou might free us from the bondage of the enemy!//O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the martyrs)

Suffering for Christ to the point of death, passion-bearing martyrs, thou retain thy souls in heaven in the hand of God, while thy relics are watched over in all the earth. Priests and kings and all peoples venerate them, and we, being taught, cry out according to the custom://Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the ewe-Lamb saw Thee, her own Lamb, on the Cross and pierced with nails, she groaned and was struck with fear and awe: “How can it be that Thou are dying, wishing, my Son, to tear up the debt of Adam, the first-formed man, and to redeem from death all humanity?//Glory to Thy dispensation, Lover of mankind!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

Thou did not seek for the things of the earth, and so were made worthy of heavenly joy, O martyrs. Thou became fellow-citizens with the angels.//O Lord, through their prayers, have mercy on us and save us!

By the holy martyrs praying for us and singing the praises of Christ all error has come to an end,//and mankind is being saved by faith!

The company of martyrs challenged their torturers: We fight for the Lord of hosts! Even though thou condemn us to fire and torture,//we will not deny the power of the Trinity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The shadow of the law passed when grace came! As the bush burned, yet was not consumed. So the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin! The righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame!//Instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 2

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(To the martyrs)

Great is the glory thou obtained by faith, O saints! Thou not only defeated the enemy in Thy sufferings, but even after death thou still drive out spirits, healing the sick, O physicians of our souls and bodies!//Entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls!

(Stikhera for the departed)

As the flower withers, and a dream passes away, so the flesh of every one is dissolved at death. But at the sound of the trumpet, all the dead shall arise, trembling before Thy coming, O Christ God. Then, O Master, establish in the mansions of the just//the souls of Thy servants whom Thou hast taken from us.

Woe is me! How great a struggle the soul endures at its parting from the body! Woe is me! How many tears it sheds then! But there is none to show it compassion. It turns to the angels, but prays in vain; stretching out its hands to people, it finds no one to help. Therefore, my beloved brethren, reflecting

on the shortness of our life, let us beseech Christ to give rest to the departed,//and grant great mercy to our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Save thy servants from tribulations, O Virgin Theotokos, for after God we all run to thee//as our unshakable haven and protection.

Octoechos
Tone 2

Saturday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the saints)*

Thou have made Thy saints shine brighter than gold, O Christ, and glorified Thy holy ones. They cry out to Thee on our behalf, good One: Direct our lives as the Lover of mankind. Let our prayer arise as incense,//for Thou alone rest among the saints.

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

Martyrs of the Lord, blessed is the earth that was drenched with thy blood and holy the tombs that received thy bodies! Thou made a spectacle of the enemy in the arena, proclaiming Christ with boldness! We entreat thee to pray to Him, for He is good,//that He may save our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thy mystery, Theotokos, is most glorious, surpassing understanding, for thou art sealed in purity and preserved in virginity! We know thee in truth to be the Mother who gave birth to the true God. Beseech Him to save our souls.

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(for the departed)*

Giver of life, Thou doth rule as God over all mankind, both the living and the dead. Listen to the prayers of Thy servants: Show Thy compassion and mercy

towards all! Give remission to the souls of the departed with the hope that is in Thee,/for Thou are the only good One!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Remember Thy servants, Lord, in Thy love and forgive them all the sins they committed in this life, for no one is sinless but Thee, O Lord,// Who can give rest to the departed!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Holy Mother of the ineffable light, we reverently magnify Thee,// singing angelic praises in thy honor.

Octoechos
Tone 2

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

Taking up the Cross of Christ as their invincible weapon, the holy martyrs have destroyed all the power of the devil! They have received heavenly crowns, and have become a wall of defense for us// ever interceding on behalf of us all!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Master, by Thy life-giving death, Thou hast overthrown death's violence and corruption! Thou hast become a fountain of eternal life for all giving Resurrection to the dead! Therefore, we entreat Thee: Give rest, Saviour, as the Lover of mankind, to those who have departed to Thee in faith.// Count them worthy of the fullness of Thy glory!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

Desiring, in Thy surpassing love, to save the work of Thy hands, with joy Thou fulfilled the deep mystery of the work of Thy redemption: Thou bought the whole world at the price of Thy precious blood! Therefore we entreat Thee, Lover of mankind: Be merciful to those who have departed to Thee in faith.// Count them worthy of the sweetness of Thy beauty.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O pure Virgin, thou conceived God Who repays the debt of our first Mother Eve! He bestows incorruption and Resurrection upon the faithful; He crowns with immortal glory those who glorify thee! Do not cease to intercede before Him, O Bride of God,// that He may shine upon us all with the light of His splendor!

Octoechos
Tone 3
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

I have sinned greatly, and angered Thee, O good Master, yet as Thou art the merciful One, accept me as I return like the prodigal and make me one of Thy hired servants//O Father in heaven.

I have spent the days of my life in laziness, drawing near to the end in condemnation. I have given no thought to the judgment that awaits me, nor to my separation from God. But Saviour, turn me back//and take me from all of this.

Deliver my humble soul from hell, O Lord, from the gnashing of teeth and eternal torments, that with faith I may sing of Thee://Our God Who is good, and the Lover of mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

By thy fervent intercession, O pure Lady, and thy prayers as a Mother, pray to the ruler of creation, to free my mind from the terrible rule of passions,//and make me a servant of thy Son and thy God.

Octoechos
Tone 3 Sunday
Vespers

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

We offer Thee our evening hymn, O Christ, with incense and spiritual song.//Have mercy on us, O Saviour!

Save me, O Lord my God: Thou art the salvation of all! The storm of my passions troubles me; the yoke of my sins weighs me down! Stretch out Thy hand to help me; lead me to the light of repentance,//for Thou alone art the compassionate Lover of mankind!

(To the Cross)

Great is the might of Thy Cross, O Lord! Set in one place, it acts throughout the world. It made fishermen into apostles, and the gentiles into martyrs.// May they always intercede for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We have put our trust in, O Lady, protector of all who pray to thee. We glory in thee and put all our hope in thee.//pray to thy Son for thy worthless servants.

Octoechos

Tone 3 **Monday**

Matins

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

I will be convicted at the dread judgment without accusers, and condemned without witnesses; for the book of my conscience will be opened and my hidden works revealed! O God, before Thou examines my actions in the presence of all creation,//be merciful to me and save me!

Verse: Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

How long, my soul, will thou continue in sin? How long will thou delay repentance? Call to mind the coming judgment and cry to the Lord:// I have sinned, sinless Lord, save me!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

Each one turns to the place where he can find salvation, and for good reason! What other refuge do we have like thee, O Theotokos,//the protection of our souls!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance and the angels)*

As Almighty, Thou hast brought all things in heaven and on earth into being by a word: The choirs of angels stand by in awe and offer ceaseless praise to Thee, O Master! Thou make the ends of the earth shine with Thy light! We join them, crying out to Thee://In Thy compassion, save us!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Who does not marvel at the victorious struggles of the holy martyrs? Who is not astonished that they remained ever undefeated? Burnt with fire and scourged, slaughtered and cast to the wild beasts, they were victorious over the opposing enemy! They rejected the flattery of kings with loathing and scorned the tyrants' threats! Therefore they received crowns from Christ our God// Who grants the world great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the pure voice came to thee, the things of heaven rejoiced in fear and the things of earth celebrated with awe. The same feast dawned for them both as the Master saved the first-formed man! Therefore, together with the angel we cry to thee://Rejoice, for thou hast found favor with God!

Octoechos

Tone 3 **Monday**

Matins

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Lord, gather my scattered mind and cleanse my barren heart. Grant me repentance as Thou gave to Peter, a sorrowful heart as Thou gave the publican and tears as gave the harlot, so too that I may cry to Thee with a

loud voice:// Save me, O God, as Thou alone art tender-hearted and the Lover of mankind!

Often when I stand to sing the hymns, I am found to be committing sins! With my tongue I am singing praises, but with my soul, I am considering inappropriate things!// But correct both through repentance, O Christ God, and save me!

(To the martyrs)

Come, all people, let us honor the memory of the martyrs: They became a spectacle for both angels and mankind; they received from Christ the crowns of victory,//and now they ceaselessly pray for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Since thou art higher than the angels of heaven, O all-holy one, bring the prayer of earth-born mortals to the Master of all, that they may be saved// who confess thee in faith to be the Theotokos!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Monday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Seeing how lazy I am at useful things, the subtle serpent beckons me to evil, transforming himself to show me the sweetness of sin, the wicked work of his own hands, contrary to the commandments of God. Thus he pushes me through evil habits//to accept evil for good.

I have zealously traveled every path of sin and lawlessness, abandoning the path of righteousness to the end. Now I approach the gates of death and cry: O Good Jesus, the Way of life, return me to the wide path of true repentance; save me, and help me to change my ways,//and before I die, make me worthy of divine forgiveness!

Dead from all kinds of sins, of many transgressions and great unrighteousness, I lie dead and helpless indeed, and my hope in Thy compassion is all that lives in me. Thou didst give breath and life to the dead, O Christ, putting to death the passions that have killed us.//Take me up beforehand from eternal death!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Virgin bearer of the unquenchable Light, show us the way to repentance. Take me beneath the cover of thy veil, for I am buried in darkness.//By thy prayers, save me from the fires of hell.

Octoechos
Tone 3

Monday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

We offer Thee our evening hymn, O Christ, with incense and spiritual songs.//O Saviour, have mercy on us!

Save me, O Lord my God: Thou art the Salvation of all! The storm of my passions troubles me; the yoke of my sins weighs me down! Stretch out Thy hand to help me; lead me to the light of repentance,//for Thou alone art the compassionate Lover of mankind!

(To the martyrs)

Great is the might of Thy martyrs, O Christ, for though they lie in their tombs they drive away demons and defeat the power of the enemy. They have lived their lives in battle for piety//by faith in the Trinity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou art holy among women, O unwedded Mother! Entreat the King and Son Whom thou bore//to save our souls, O Theotokos!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Tuesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Repent, O my soul, while thou still dwell upon the earth, for in the tomb the dust cannot offer praise or gain deliverance from sin! Cry out to Christ thy God: Thou knowest the hearts of mankind;//I have sinned, but before Thou condemn me, have mercy on me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

I promise to repent at the hour of prayer, yet the enemy skillfully urges me to sin!//But deliver me from him, O God, and have mercy on me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos, thou art our refuge and our might, thou art the strong help of the world! By thy intercessions protect thy servants from all calamity,//for thou alone art blessed!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Forerunner)*

O prophet and Forerunner, we run beneath thy protection and cry in faith from the depths of our souls: Put to sleep the turmoil of temptations and danger and the turbulence of sickness; destroy the intentions of the evil enemy//and ask for us great mercy!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thy brave endurance, O glorious martyrs, defeated the craft of the enemy, the source of all evil: Therefore thou wert counted worthy of eternal

blessedness! Intercede then with the Lord, witnesses of the truth,//for the salvation of Christ's faithful flock!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

One runs with haste to where one finds salvation, and what refuge have we other than thee,//O Theotokos, the shelter of our souls.

Octoechos

Tone 3

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Lord, gather my scattered mind and cleanse my barren heart. Grant me repentance as Thou gavest to Peter, groans as Thou gavest to the publican and tears to the harlot, so that I may cry to Thee with a loud voice://Save me, O God, for Thou alone art tender-hearted and the Lover of mankind!

Often when I stand to sing the hymns, I am found to be committing sins! With my tongue I am singing praises, but with my soul, I am considering inappropriate things!//But correct both through repentance, O Christ God, and save me!

The warriors of Christ, filled with mighty courage, despised the fear of kings and torturers. They confessed Him to be our King, our Lord and God,//and now they ceaselessly pray for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou conceived of the Holy Spirit without seed, and we give glory, crying out to thee://Rejoice, O all-holy Virgin!

Octoechos

Tone 3

Tuesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of the Cross)

Creation was changed by Thy Crucifixion, O Lord: The sun hid its rays in fear; the veil of the Temple was torn in two, and all who believe are saved.// Therefore we glorify Thine immeasurable goodness!

God the Master assumed our flesh in His goodness, nailing it upon the Cross. He was pleased in His compassionate mercy to be lifted up in the flesh,//raising us, when we had been overthrown.

The drops of blood and water that poured in a divine and abundant stream from Thy side, fashioned the world anew, for Thou wash away the sins of all mankind with water, O Lord;//Thou writes their pardon in blood.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Pure one, a sword pierced thy heart when thou beheld thy Son crucified. O Virgin, thou cried out weeping: Do not leave me childless, my Son and my God!//Protect me by Thy Resurrection!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

I venerate Thy precious Cross, O Christ: the guardian of the world and the salvation of us sinners! It is the mighty gift of propitiation,// the victory of rulers and pride of the universe!

The tree of disobedience brought death to the world, but the Tree of the Cross blossomed into life and incorruption! Therefore we worship thee, the crucified Lord;//let the light of Thy countenance shine on us!

(To the saints)

The prophets, apostles, and martyrs of Christ taught us to praise the consubstantial Trinity. Having enlightened the nations that had gone astray,//they made the sons of mankind companions of the angels!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As she beheld Thee lifted upon the Cross, my Christ, Thy pure Mother who bore Thee without defilement lamented and cried out with weeping: Thou preserved me inviolate in bearing Thee;//do not leave me childless!

Octoechos

Tone 3

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

The hosts of angels were amazed, beholding Thine infinite power and seeing Thy voluntary crucifixion! How wert Thou, upon Whom none may gaze, scourged in the flesh in Thy desire to redeem mankind from corruption? Therefore we cry to Thee as the Giver of life://Glory to Thy kingdom, O Christ!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Set up on the earth, the Cross touched the heavens, not because the wood could reach so high, but because Thou wert crucified upon it//filling all things: Glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos, we have obtained the Cross of thy Son as a powerful rod, to strike down the boasting of the enemy://Therefore we exalt Thee forever!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

O Lord, Thou are higher than all creation, yet Thou endured the dishonor of the Cross that Thou may grant honor to me, the greatly dishonored one! Thy side was pierced by the spear, long-suffering Lord, in Thy desire to redeem me from corruption, for I am the work of Thy hands.//I sing the praises of Thy great compassion and goodness, O Lover of mankind!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thou have magnified the memorial of Thy victorious martyrs in Thy almighty power, O Lord, for Thou strengthened them to follow Thee in Thy sufferings! They bravely overcame the devil's might and so received the gift of healing! At their prayers, grant peace to our souls,// O Christ, the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When she saw Thou lifted upon the tree, Thy Mother, the unwedded, spotless and pure Virgin cried out to Thee: My sweetest Son, how have the lawless people condemned Thee to the Cross, for Thou art the Maker and Lord of all?//I hymn Thine infinite goodness!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

I was cast out from delight through envy, plunging in a piteous fall. Thou were not neglecting me, O Master: For my sake Thou took upon Thyself what is mine and were crucified! Thou art saving me and leading me to glory!// My Redeemer, glory to Thee!

On the mountain in the form of a Cross, Moses stretched out his hands to the heights and defeated Amalek. But when Thou spread out Thy palms on the precious Cross, O Saviour, Thou took me in Thine embrace, saving me from enslavement to the foe! Thou gavest me the sign of life, to flee from the bow of my enemies!//Therefore, O Word, I bow down in worship to Thy precious Cross!

(To the martyrs)

Even after death thou shineth as lights in the world, having fought the good fight, O holy martyrs! Therefore thou now hast boldness before Christ://Entreat Him to have mercy on our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the blameless Virgin beheld Thee hanging on the tree, she cried out as a Mother, all-gracious Christ: My beloved Son: How has the assembly of evil-doers raised Thee upon the Cross?

Octoechos
Tone 3

Wednesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the apostles)

Through the prayers of Thine honorable and holy apostles, O only merciful One, grant peace to Thy servants, O Lover of mankind. Save from all harm those who sing praises to Thee,//ever worshipping Thee in faith.

When thou wilt sit upon the twelve thrones with the Judge of all in judgment of the entire creation, do not reveal me as one condemned holy apostles, my benefactors,//but deliver me from all torment and darkness.

I beseech thee, O holy apostles, to protect me from the arrows of the evil one. Guide me to the path of salvation, wonderworkers,//and sprinkle me with spiritual dew.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Great is the might of thy wonders, O pure one, for by it thou deliver us from harm and death, protecting us from attacks by the devil. Thou hast set us free from all affliction,//and take away the transgressions of mankind.

Octoechos
Tone 3

Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Apostles)

Thy proclamation hath gone out into all the earth, O holy apostles! By preaching the understanding of God, thou vanquished the delusion of idols. This commendable deed wast thine, O blessed ones,//therefore we sing and glorify thy memory!

Thou art the branches of the life-bearing vine, O glorious apostles! Thou brought forth to God the fruit of piety. Since thou hast great boldness before Him,// beseech Him to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

(To the martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, were confirmed by faith and strengthened by hope. Spiritually united by love of Thy Cross, they overcame the tyranny of the enemy. They have obtained crowns of glory,//and together with the angels, they pray for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Maiden, my sins are many, but by thy great intercession rescue me from the dreadful fire. By thy prayers as a Mother, O pure one,//correct and guide me on the paths of salvation!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Apostles)*

Apostles and eyewitnesses, thou wert made divine heralds of truth and teachers of the Church! Thou trampled underfoot the error of idolatry, and clearly proclaimed the Trinity! Blessed saints, pray to the triune God,//that we may be granted His great mercy!

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Come, let us all sing in praise of the apostles, for they are our helmsmen on the ship of life, for they overcame the error of idolatry, they have led us to the light of life and taught us to give glory to the Trinity! Therefore with all the faithful we celebrate their honored memory//as we glorify the Saviour.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou art a vine that has never known the husbandman, that bore the ripe cluster of grapes, O Virgin. We receive from Him the wine of salvation, making glad the souls and bodies of us all! We call thee blessed, for thou are the source of all good things, and we ever cry to thee with the angel://Rejoice, full of grace!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to St. Nicholas)*

O Nicholas, we sing praises in thine honor: Thou art the preacher of the truth and bright light of the world! We cry out to thee in faith: Rescue us from danger as thou saved the innocent men from death//and drive away every evil!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints, the God of Israel!

Shielded by the armor of Christ, and taking up the weapons of faith, thou cast down the ranks of the enemy as valiant soldiers! Setting thy hope in the life that is to come, thou gladly endured all the tyrants' threats and scourging. Therefore, strong-minded martyrs of Christ,// thou hast received crowns of victory!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou hast appeared as the pure gold throne of the King, O immaculate Theotokos, for thou bore God in thy womb, making us fragrant with divine gifts of grace.//Therefore we magnify thee and forever proclaim thee to be the true Mother of God!

Octoechos

Tone 3 **Thursday**

Matins

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Apostles)

Thy proclamation has gone out into all the earth, O holy apostles! By preaching the understanding of God, thou vanquished the delusion of idols. This commendable deed wast thine, O blessed ones,//therefore we sing and glorify thy memory!

Thou art the branches of the life-bearing vine, O glorious apostles! Thou brought forth to God the fruit of piety. Since thou hast great boldness before Him,//beseech Him to grant peace and great mercy to our souls!

(To the martyrs)

The hosts of angels marveled at the struggles of the martyrs, for clad in a mortal body, they despised torments! They became imitators of our Saviour's passion,//and they intercede on behalf of our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O All-pure Lady, first in holiness, since thou art the praise of the heavenly ranks, the hymn of the apostles and the message of the prophets,//accept also our fervent prayers!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Although Thou art passionless in Thy divine nature, O Lord, in thy human nature Thou endured passion. Thou were nailed to the Cross, and Thy side was pierced by a spear,//pouring forth for me two streams of ineffable mysteries.

Wearing a crown plaited with thorns, O King of all, Thou destroyed the penalty of sin: The cursed earth which brought forth weeds and thorns, and taking the reed in Thine hands, Thou inscribed in the book of heaven//all those who believe in Thee.

The unjust jealousy of the people was boundless, innocent Christ: It was not spent when they had crucified Thee, nor while they mocked Thee as a liar, nor when Thou died, nor when they craftily sought from Pilate a guard for Thy tomb.// How great is the anger of ruthless mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The world is pardoned by Thy crucifixion, O Word, and creation has been enlightened, O Master. All nations have obtained salvation, but I am torn asunder, Cried the all-pure one, as I behold Thy voluntary passion!

Octoechos
Tone 3

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

I venerate Thy precious Cross, O Christ: the guardian of the world and the salvation of us sinners! It is the mighty gift of propitiation,//the victory of rulers and pride of the universe!

Holding his hands up in the form of a Cross, Moses conquered Amalek on the mountain. So also, Saviour, Thou stretched out Thy hands upon the precious Cross, embracing me and saving me from the bondage of the enemy! Thou gavest me the sign of life with which to escape the weapons of my enemies.//Therefore I venerate Thy precious Cross, O Word!

O Lord, great is the might of Thy Cross! Set in one place, it acts throughout the world. It made fishermen into apostles, and the gentiles into martyrs.// May they always intercede for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the blameless Virgin beheld Thee hanging on the tree, she cried out as a Mother, all-gracious Christ: My beloved Son,//how has the assembly of evil-doers raised Thee upon the Cross?

Octoechos
Tone 3

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Choosing to suffer crucifixion and death, Thou set up the Cross in the midst of creation! When Thou had consented, O Saviour, that Thy body should be

nailed to the wood, the sun hid its rays! Seeing this, the thief confessed Thee as God and cried out to Thee: O Lord, remember me!// For his faith, he was granted paradise!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Thou wert exalted, O Lamb of God, upon the cypress, the pine and the cedar, saving those who worship Thy voluntary crucifixion in faith!//Glory to Thee, O Christ our God!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou freely chose to endure a shameful death upon the Cross, O compassionate Christ. When Thy mother saw Thee, she was wounded in her heart. At her prayers, O Lord alone supreme in love, through Thy tender mercy have compassion on the world and save it,//for Thou takest away its sin!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Cross)*

In Thine ineffable mercy, O sinless One, Thou endured the Cross, the instrument of the curse, freeing the first-formed man from the first curse. Therefore, we venerate Thy glorious passion and praise Thy holy dispensation which Thou alone fulfilled in Thy loving kindness,//for the salvation of Thy creatures!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints, the God of Israel!

Through thy faith thou didst shine as radiant lights, physicians of the true worship of God: O Holy and glorious martyrs! Thou wert not terrified by the torments of the tyrants, but thou cast down the blasphemous teachings of idolatry,// taking up the true Cross as thy emblem of victory!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The things in heaven were seized with terror and things on earth trembled with fear when they saw the sinless One raised upon the Cross. The sun was darkened and the moon lost its light! Then the mother wept and spoke: What

is this sight, my Son?// How do Thou suffer so, for Thou alone are the Ruler of all?

Octoechos
Tone 3

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

Let Him be crucified! Cried the people who had always delighted in Thy gifts, and the killers of the righteous asked to receive a criminal instead of a Benefactor. But Thou kept silent, O Christ, enduring their reckless haste,//wishing to suffer and to save us as the Lover of mankind!

Becoming poor by Thine own free will, Thou bore Adam's poverty, O Christ God, and came on earth incarnate of a Virgin! Thou accepted the Cross so that Thou might free us from the bondage of the enemy.//O Lord, glory to Thee!

Come, all people, let us honor the memory of the martyrs: They became a spectacle for both angels and mankind; they received from Christ the crowns of victory,// and now they ceaselessly pray for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Draining the rivers of tears, the all-blameless one sighed deeply. She mourned, crying out from the depths of her soul: Sweetest Light of the sun, how can Thou set? O my Jesus, Who created all things by a word,//how can Thou be seen now as a speechless corpse upon the Cross?

Octoechos
Tone 3

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

O Lord, great is the might of Thy Cross! Set in one place, it acts throughout the world. It made fishermen into apostles, and the gentiles into martyrs.//May they always intercede for our souls.

Great is the might of Thy martyrs, O Christ, for though they lie in their tombs they drive away demons and defeat the power of the enemy. They have lived their lives in battle for true piety//by faith in the Trinity.

The prophets, apostles, and martyrs of Christ taught us to sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity. They enlightened the nations which had gone astray,//and made the children of mankind companions of the angels.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

How can we not wonder at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother? For without receiving the touch of man, thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, immaculate Virgin! The Son born of the Father before eternity was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honored lady! He underwent no mingling, no change, no division; but preserved the fullness of each nature. Entreat Him to save the souls, O Lady and Virgin and Mother, of those who confess thee in the Orthodox manner//to be the Theotokos.

Octoechos
Tone 3

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikheron to the martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, were confirmed by faith and strengthened by hope. Spiritually united by love of Thy Cross, they overcame the tyranny of the enemy. They have obtained crowns of glory,//and together with the angels, they pray for our souls!

(For the departed)

No human vanity shall remain after death: wealth shall not remain, nor shall glory go with us on the way. When death comes, it shall swallow these. Therefore let us sing to Christ, the immortal King: Give rest to those who have departed from us,//for Thou are the abode of all those who rejoice in Thee!

Why do we bustle about in vanity? For the way in which we walk is short! Life is smoke, mist, dust and ashes; it comes quickly and vanishes away! Therefore let us sing to Christ, the immortal King: Give rest to those who have departed from us,//for Thou art the abode of all those who rejoice in Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou are holy among women, O unwedded Mother: Entreat thy Son and our King, O Theotokos,//to save our souls, as the Lover of mankind.

Octoechos
Tone 3

Saturday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn (to the martyrs)

All who love the martyrs rejoice today! with one accord sing praise to Christ! He has made them shine like stars upon the world, and year by year their feasts grant us the grace of miracles,//enlightening our souls and minds!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

Thy brave endurance, O glorious martyrs, defeated the snares of the enemy from whom all evil comes: Therefore Thou wert counted worthy of eternal blessedness! Intercede, then, with the Lord, witnesses of the truth,//for the salvation of Christ's faithful flock!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We sing thy praises, O Virgin Theotokos, for thou intercede for the salvation of us all! Thy Son and our God, in the flesh He took from thee, accepted

suffering on the Cross,//and as the Lover of mankind has delivered us from corruption!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(for the departed)*

When at Thy command, O Lord and Saviour, we stand before Thy impartial judgment seat, do not condemn us who have believed in Thee! We have all sinned, yet we have not turned away from Thee. We entreat Thee, O Christ, give rest in the dwellings of the righteous to those whom Thou hast taken to Thyself,//for Thou alone are rich in mercy!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Through the tree we have fallen into bitter death, but by the precious Tree we rise again, for through Thy Cross, Thou hast put death to death, O Saviour, and given all men unending life! O Merciful Lord, make the members of Thy household who have departed to Thee worthy of that life,//and give them Thy Kingdom!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Receive thy servants who have left the stormy seas of this life in faith, O all undefiled Virgin, and lead them to our Judge and God, praying Him to grant them redemption. For as the Mother of Him Who does all things,//thou hast both the power and the will.

Octoechos
Tone 3

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

Come, O peoples, let us honor the memory of the holy and victorious martyrs! Having become a spectacle to angels and mankind, they have received the crown of victory from Christ,//and they ever intercede for our souls!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

O Lord, alone rich in mercy, I glorify Thy precious Cross, for through it life and blessedness are given to those who sing Thy praises with faith and love! Therefore we cry to Thee, O Christ our God: Give rest to our departed brethren,//calling them to be with Thee in the dwelling of those who rejoice!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

Thou slept in the tomb as Man; as God Thou raised up all those in the tomb by Thine unconquerable might! With never-silent voices they offer Thee a hymn of praise! Therefore we cry to Thee, O Christ our God: Give rest to our departed brethren,//calling them to be with Thee in the dwelling of those who rejoice!

Glory... Now and ever...

We all acknowledge thee, O Theotokos, to be the spiritual lamp that bore the Fire of divinity joined to mankind's material flesh. Pray, then, to thy Son and God: May He give rest to our departed brethren,//calling them to be with Him in the dwelling of those who rejoice!

The Octoechos
Tone 4
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

My sins against Thee, O Lover of mankind, have nearly destroyed my human nature. Yet I seek forgiveness beyond that of the human race, forgiveness beyond nature, I seek forgiveness that is more than forgiveness itself, for beyond the laws of nature and human reasoning, Thou became a Man, O my Saviour, loving mankind beyond mankind's understanding.//Save me as I turn to Thee!

Thou established repentance, O Christ, not for those who are good, but for those who have become outcast by sin, as we learn from many examples: the thief and the prodigal son, Manasseh and the prostitute, Paul, who had persecuted the church, Matthew, who had collected taxes, and Peter who denied Thee! How then can I despair, knowing, my Saviour, that Thou art good and the Lover of mankind? I will turn to Thee in tears,//filled with hope that Thou wilt accept me!

Touch my heart with humility, turn me completely away from evil, for now I drown in the passions of the flesh. I have no hope, removed far from Thee, the king and God of all. I have gone astray. Save me, for the sake of Thy great mercy,//O Almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O undefiled Virgin, higher than the heavenly hosts, pray with the angels to the One Who rules them and all creation, that He will forgive our sins and delivering us from our passions, will make us worthy to praise His glory in song//and to inherit the food of incorruption!

The Octoechos
Tone 4

Sunday **Vespers**

The Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Lord, I long to wash away with tears the record of all my sins, and to spend the remaining days of my life pleasing Thee through repentance, but the devil continually deceives me! He wages war against my soul!//Save me, before I utterly perish, O Lord!

Who, when bestormed, if he runs to this haven is not saved? Or who that is sick, if he runs to this healing, is not made whole? O Lord, the maker of all and physician of the sick,//save me, before I utterly perish, O Lord!

(To the martyrs)

Thou art glorified in the memory of Thy martyrs, O Christ! They entreat Thee on our behalf, O God,//to send down on us great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... (Theotokion)

Rejoice, cloud filled with radiant light! Rejoice, shining lamp stand! Rejoice, jar of manna; Rejoice, staff of Aaron! Rejoice, bush which burned, yet was not consumed; Rejoice, lamp; rejoice, throne! Rejoice, holy mountain! Rejoice, harbor; rejoice, table of God; Rejoice, mystical door!// Rejoice, for thou art the joy of all!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Monday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

O Lord, make my humiliated soul turn back, for I have wasted all my life in sin.//Receive me as the harlot and save me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

As I sail across the sea of this present life, I lay to heart the depths of my many sins. I lack spiritual wisdom to guide me on my course and like Peter I cry to Thee://Save me, O Christ my God, save me in Thy love for mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The archangel Gabriel brought greetings from heaven to thee, clothed with faith and wisdom and blameless virginity, brought up in the temple, within the Holy of Holies! He cried: Rejoice, all blessed one!// Rejoice, all-glorified one, the Lord is with thee!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the angels)*

Transcendent Trinity, the choirs of bodiless angels with incorporeal mouths, sing Thy praises without ceasing! Standing by in fear, they shout: Holy art Thou, O nature Three in One! Have mercy on the members of Thy household, the work of Thy hands,//by their prayers, only Lover of mankind.

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

The angelic hosts are present today at the memorial of the holy martyrs! They enlighten the minds of the faithful, making the whole world bright with grace!//Accept their intercessions, O God, and grant us Thy great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Within the Holy of Holies, the archangel Gabriel came to thee, brought up in the temple and clothed with faith, with wisdom and measureless virginity. He brought the salutation from heaven and greeted thee saying: Rejoice, blessed one!//Rejoice, glorified one; the Lord is with thee!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Monday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

I flee for refuge to Thou, the good Shepherd; I am a sheep of Thy rational flock! O God, I have gone astray;//seek me, and have mercy on me!

O Saviour, wash me in my tears, for I am defiled by many sins. Therefore I fall down before Thee crying//I have sinned; have mercy on me, O God!

(to the martyrs)

Who will not wonder at thy struggle, O holy martyrs? How in the flesh thou defeated the bodiless enemy! Thou confessed Christ, being armed with the Cross, truly driving the demons away, defeating the evil one!//Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

Protect thy servants from every kind of danger, O blessed Theotokos,//that we may glorify thee, the hope of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Monday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Emulate the woman of Canaan, my soul: Cleave to Christ, and cry out often: Have mercy on me, O Master! The child I have is my unruly flesh possessed by the devil. Drive out its fever, and calm its frenzied movements. Mortify my

flesh in the fear of Thee. Through the prayers of the all-pure one who conceived and gave birth to Thee, O Christ, and through the prayers of all the saints,//O most merciful Benefactor.

Once Thou sent the prophet Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh who had sinned. When they repented the wrath of God changed to pity, and they were delivered from furious destruction. Send Thy powerful help to me, O Lover of mankind, although I am unworthy, that I may turn away from my countless sins, so that I may be led onto the path of repentance. Then I will lament with bitter tears//and be delivered from my many transgressions by Thy mercy.

Thou came into the world to save those who sin and to call them to repentance as the compassionate One: Have pity on me, although I have angered Thee more than all of them. Save me for the sake of Thy goodness, and lead me to repentance. Give me thoughts of contrition. Make my heart humble by Thy grace, single in purpose, gentle and without guile,//as the only compassionate One.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos, make me to weep with all my heart, to repent sincerely of my many sins. Help me to spend the rest of my life in repentance,//reassured that thou wilt keep me from all evil.

Octoechos
Tone 4

Monday **Vespers**

Apostikha

O Lord, I long to wash away with tears the record of all my sins, and to spend the remaining days of my life pleasing Thee through repentance, but the devil continually deceives me! He wages war against my soul!//Save me, before I utterly perish, O Lord!

Who, when bestormed, if he runs to this haven is not saved? Or who that is sick, if he runs to this healing, is not made whole? O Lord, the Maker of all and Physician of the sick, //save me, before I utterly perish, O Lord!

As Thou accepted the patience of the holy martyrs, accept our song, O Lover of mankind,//granting us by their supplications great mercy.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Deliver us from danger, O Mother of Christ our God, who gave birth to the Creator of all, that we may all cry to thee://Rejoice, only advocate of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Tuesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Let us hasten to enter the bridal chamber of Christ that we may hear the blessed voice of our God! Come, all who love the glory of heaven and follow the example of the wise virgins://Let us make our lamps shine brightly with faith!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

Reflect, O my soul, how we will stand before the Judge in that fearful hour when the dread thrones are set up and the deeds of each person are disclosed! no entreaty then will sway the Judge; there, like an overwhelming, angry, raging sea, the fire of torment is prepared for thee! Reflect on this, my soul!// Weep and repent before the end is here!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O True Theotokos, intercede with the boldness of a Mother before thy Son and our God, to preserve thy flock that turns to thee for protection and

receives its strength from thee.//Thou are a wall and a haven, the only guardian of mankind!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Baptist)*

O Holy Baptist, dove of the wilderness, preacher of repentance and revealer of Christ become man, thou hast become the protector of all sinners; the helper from everlasting to everlasting for all tossed by the storms of life.//By his prayers, O Christ, save Thy world!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood, shed throughout all the world! She cries to Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy bounties on Thy people,//grant peace to Thine habitation and great mercy to our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Undefiled Virgin, thou hast conceived the Maker of all; thou alone hast adorned mankind through thy childbearing: Deliver me from the traps of the crafty devil, establish me upon the rock of the precepts of Christ//by thy prayers to Him Whom thou bore in the flesh.

Octoechos
Tone 4

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

I flee for refuge to Thee, the good Shepherd; I am a sheep of Thy rational flock! O God, I have gone astray;//seek me, and have mercy on me!

A storm of sins surrounds me, O Saviour; I cannot withstand the surging waves! I fall before Thee, the only Pilot. Reach out for me as Thou did for Peter, O Lord,//and save me with Thy hand of love for mankind!

(to the martyrs)

Thou came to share in the life of the angels, O holy martyrs, having preached Christ bravely in the arena, for thou abandoned all the pleasures of the world as nothing, laying hold of the faith as a steadfast anchor. Therefore, having chased away all fantasy, thou poureth forth healing graces to the faithful,// ever interceding that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos and Queen of all, boast of the Orthodox, put to shame the insolence and pride of heretics who do not venerate or honor thy venerable icon,//all pure one!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Tuesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Lifted upon the Cross, Thy side pierced with a spear, and Thy fingers running with blood, Thou signed our liberation, O most kind Master, tearing up the record of debt of our first father Adam. Thou hast set human nature free! Therefore we sing the praises of Thy goodness that is past understanding,//O compassionate Lord!

We sing the praises of Thy sufferings, O Jesus our Master: Of the Cross, the spear, the reed, the sponge and the nails, of the scourging, the purple, and the crown of thorns, of the spitting and the mockery, that Thou endured of Thine own free will. I magnify Thy forbearance, O only Giver of life in whom there is no evil,//and I glorify Thee in faith, O Lover of mankind.

I venerate and kiss Thy precious Cross with love, O good One, and I glorify Thy descent to hell that is more than the mind can grasp, and Thine ineffable

and tender mercies, the wealth of Thy goodness for which Thou hast saved mankind held in the darkness of transgression.//Glory to Thy crucifixion, O Christ!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Do not mourn or lament for me, O Mother, for although I hang upon the Cross, I am God and have created the world! I created all things visible and invisible! I shall rise again and be glorified! I go to destroy the fortress of Satan, crushing his power and freeing those bound by him,//For I am coming with my Father and the glory of the holy Trinity!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Thou hast given us an invincible weapon in Thy Cross, O Christ!//With it we vanquish the assaults of the stranger.

Having Thy Cross at all times as our help, O Christ,//we easily break the snares of the enemy!

(To the martyrs)

Since thou hast boldness before the Saviour, O saints, pray unceasingly for us sinners, entreating remission for our transgressions,//and great mercy for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the all-pure Virgin saw Thee crucified, O Lover of mankind, she lamented and cried: What is this my Son? What reward have the godless people given Thee for all the good Thou hast done for them? And why, O my

Beloved do they hasten to make me childless?//I marvel at Thy voluntary crucifixion, O compassionate Lord!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

By Thy precious blood Thou hast redeemed us from the curse of the law. By being nailed to the Cross and pierced by a spear Thou have poured forth immortality for mankind!//O Our Saviour, glory to Thee!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Come quickly to our aid, O Christ our God, before we are enslaved by the enemies that blaspheme Thee and threaten us! By Thy Cross destroy those who fight against us, that they may know the power of the Orthodox faith,// through the prayers of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Undefiled Virgin, Mother of Christ our God, a sword pierced thine all-holy soul when thou beheld thy son and God freely crucified. O blessed among women,//ever pray that He may grant us pardon of our sins!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

On Golgotha, O Christ, Thou hast raised me up again after my bitter fall in paradise from the resentful purpose of the destroyer of mankind. Thou hast healed the curse of the tree through the tree, killing the serpent who killed me by his guile and given me divine life.//Glory to Thy holy crucifixion, O Lord!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, Lord!

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord, through their sufferings have received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, O our God! For having Thy strength they laid low their adversaries and shattered the powerless boldness of demons!// Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The ewe-lamb and Virgin, as she pondered the sight of Thee, the powerful One, hanging on the Cross, spoke with weeping and lamentation: How ineffable is Thy condescension, O Word! See how the people have now judged and condemned Thee, the God Who shall come to judge all creation!//I sing the praises of Thine ineffable mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

May Thy Cross be a wall for us, O Jesus our Saviour! For we the faithful have no other hope than Thee, O Lord. Thou wert nailed to the Cross in the flesh,//granting us great mercy!

As a sign for those who fear Thee, O Lord, Thou hast given Thy precious Cross, on which Thou triumphed over the powers and principalities of darkness and led us to the original blessedness! So we glorify Thy providential plan that is full of love for mankind,//O almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

(To the martyrs)

How shall we marvel at thy struggles, O holy martyrs? For being clothed in a mortal body, thou defeated the bodiless foes! Threats of tyrants did not frighten thee; encounters with torture did not strike thee down! In truth, thou worthily received glory from Christ!//Beseech Him also to grant our souls great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When Thy Mother beheld Thee outstretched upon the Cross, fastened with nails; Thy side wounded by a spear, she lamented, crying: Woe is me, dear Child! How could the evil people have slain Thee, the One Who grants life to those in hell? But quickly arise,//giving joy to those whom Thou hast loved!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Wednesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Glorious apostles, soldiers who fought with the prudence that is mighty strength: Thou formed a united front against the enemy, and putting on the full armor of the Spirit, thou destroyed all the forces of the devil who had stolen as spoils the souls of mankind.//Therefore we honor thee throughout all ages!

Spreading out the net of faith in the form of the Cross, O Christ, Thy twelve apostles caught all the nations, drawing them towards knowledge of Thee. They made the sea of the passions dry! Therefore by their prayers that are most pleasing to Thee,//call me from the depths of my transgressions, I pray.

Today let us praise in song the twelve apostles, O elect of God: Peter and Paul, James, Luke and John, Matthew, Thomas, Mark, Simon and Philip, and Andrew, now glorified with wise and godly Bartholomew,//and the rest of the seventy apostles.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou contained the uncontainable God in thy womb, and gave birth to the Saviour and Redeemer of our souls: Do not despise me, O pure one, for I am

in travail; have mercy on me,/and guard me from all enmity and the snares of the evil one!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Apostles)

Christ, by the Holy Spirit Thou enlightened the choir of apostles; for their sake wash away the filth of our sins, O God,//and have mercy on us!

The Holy Spirit lifted up Thy disciples, O Christ God, revealing the unlearned to be teachers! As the all-powerful one, Thou put an end to error,//by the harmony coming from the notes of the many tongues!

(To the martyrs)

O martyrs of the Lord: Living sacrifices and reasonable offerings; perfect incense burnt to God; O sheep that know God and are known by Him, into whose folds the wolves cannot break!//Pray that we may be led with thee to rest beside the still waters.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Deliver us from danger, O Theotokos, who gave birth to Christ, the Creator of all, that we may all cry out to thee://Rejoice, O only advocate for our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Apostles)*

Thou hast made Thy disciples, O Christ, as lights shining to the end of the earth! By preaching Thee, they illumine our souls. Through them Thou hast darkened the error of idolatry; Thou hast enlightened the world with the teachings of true faith!//At their intercessions, save our souls!

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!

Just as Moses, O Master, by the strength of Thy right hand, led Israel out of bondage through the Red Sea and drowned Pharaoh in the waves, so hast Thy wise disciples by their miracles forced a passage through the sea of bitter godlessness, guiding the people to Thee, O Word without beginning,// and the only Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We acknowledge that the Word of the Father, O Christ our God, has taken flesh from thee, O Virgin Theotokos! Thou alone art pure; thou alone art blessed! Therefore we ever sing thy praises,//and we magnify thee!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to Nicholas)*

Hasten, O Father Nicholas, to come quickly and save thy servants from the dangers and afflictions that come upon us suddenly, for thou hast boldness before the Master and God. Hasten to the aid of those who call on thee in faith,//granting them now protection and shelter.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints, the God of Israel!

Armed with Thy Cross, Thy victorious martyrs, O Christ our God, defeated the snares of the enemy; the one from whom all evil comes! They shone like beacons, guiding mortals; they grant healing to those who ask with faith!// At their intercessions save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We have no way to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos, for thou art the height of creation.//We beseech thee to grant us thy gracious mercy.

Octoechos
Tone 4

Thursday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

By the Holy Spirit Thou enlightened the choir of apostles, O Christ; for their sake wash away the filth of our sins, O God,//and have mercy on us!

The Holy Spirit lifted up Thy disciples, O Christ God, revealing the unlearned to be teachers! As the all-powerful One, Thou didst put an end to error,//by the harmony coming from the notes of the many tongues!

(To the martyrs)

Precious is the death of Thy saints, O Lord, for afflicted by the sword, fire and frost, they spilled their blood, having hope in Thee, to receive the wages of their labor! They suffered, O Saviour,//and won from Thee great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Only pure and undefiled Virgin, who ineffably brought forth God in the flesh,//intercede that our souls may be saved!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

When it saw Thee crucified, all creation stood amazed and trembled. The whole earth was shaken and quaked, forbearing Word! The curtain of the

Temple was torn in two at the outrage done to Thee. The rocks split with terror and the sun hid its rays//knowing Thee to be the Creator.

When Thy side, O most merciful Lord, was pierced with a spear, the ancient record against our forefather Adam was torn to shreds. The outcast nature of mankind was made holy again by the sprinkling of Thy blood. Now it cries out to Thee: Glory to Thy crucifixion! Glory to Thy power,//O all powerful Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

How did the lawless assembly dare to condemn Thee, the immortal Judge who gave the law to the God-seer Moses in the wilderness? How could they look without fear at the Life of all killed on the Cross? How did it not enter their minds// that Thou art the only God and Master of creation?

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When thy Virgin Mother saw Thee crucified, she cried out in amazement as she beheld Thee: Is this how they reward Thee for the many gifts Thou hast given them? But I pray Thee, O my Son and my God, do not leave me alone, but hasten to rise again,//resurrecting Adam with Thyself!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Thou hast given us an invincible weapon in Thy Cross, O Christ!//With it we vanquish the assaults of the stranger.

Having Thy Cross at all times as our help, O Christ,//we easily break the snares of the enemy!

(to the martyrs)

Thou art glorified in the memory of Thy martyrs, O Christ! They entreat Thee on our behalf, O God,//to send down on us great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Mother, do not mourn for Me, as thou beholdest upon the Cross thy Son and God, Who hung the formless earth upon the waters, and fashioned all creation, for I shall rise again and shall be glorified, destroying the power of the kingdom of hell, and crushing its strength!//I shall release from its wickedness those in held there!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

O Saviour, Thine own people nailed Thee to the Cross; through this Cross, O loving Lord, Thou hast called the gentiles back to Thee! In the abundance of Thy tender mercies, Thou freely stretched out Thy hands on it and consented that the spear should pierce Thy side.//O Long-suffering Lord, glory to Thee!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Looking now upon Thy most pure Cross that is the light of our souls, O Christ, and venerating it with joy, we cry aloud to Thee: Glory to Thee whose will it was to be exalted on it! Glory to Thee, for through the Cross Thou hast granted light to all creation! Rejoicing in the Cross//we glorify Thee with never-ending hymns!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When Thine all-pure Mother saw Thee, O Word of God, raised upon the Cross, she cried with a Mother's grief: What is this new and strange wonder, my Son? How can Thou suffer death, O Life of all? It is because in Thy compassion//Thou doth will to bring the dead to life!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

In Thy boundless mercy, O good Lord, Thou hast endured the Cross and death and unjust judgment for us so we may be set us free from condemnation and the ancestral curse, for we were tricked into corruption.//Therefore we venerate Thy crucifixion, O Word!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

The solemn feast of those who suffered martyrdom has made the Church into an earthly heaven and the angels rejoice with mankind! At Thy martyrs' intercessions,//O Christ our God, save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As Thy blameless Mother saw Thee, O Word of God, raised upon the Cross, she wept as a Mother and cried aloud: What is this strange and terrible wonder, O my Son? How hast Thou, the Life of all, become a companion of death//in Thy compassionate desire to give life to the dead?

Octoechos
Tone 4

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

May Thy Cross be a wall for us, O Jesus our Saviour! For we faithful have no other hope than Thee, O Lord, Who were nailed to the Cross in the flesh// and granted us great mercy!

As a sign for those who fear Thee, O Lord, Thou hast given Thy precious Cross, on which Thou triumphed over the principalities and powers of darkness and led us to the original blessedness! So we glorify Thy providential plan, filled with love for mankind,//O almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

(to the martyrs)

Who will not wonder at thy struggle, O holy martyrs? How in the flesh thou defeated the bodiless enemy! Thou confessed Christ, being armed with the Cross, truly driving the demons away and defeating the evil one!//Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the Virgin, Thy Mother, saw Thee hanging on the Cross, O Lord, she was filled with fear and amazement and looking on, she said: Dearest Son, how is it that Thou wert hung upon the wood of the Cross, O long-suffering one? How is it, O Word, that Thy hands and feet have been nailed by transgressors,//and that Thy blood has been spilled, O Master?

Octoechos
Tone 4

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

O martyrs of the Lord: Living sacrifices and reasonable offerings; perfect incense burnt to God; O sheep that know God and are known by Him, into whose fold the wolves cannot break!//Pray that we may be led with thee to rest beside the still waters!

O Lord, precious is the death of Thy saints: Those who with humble hearts poured out their blood by sword and flame, putting their hope in Thee, that their work might receive its reward.//And in patience they indeed received great mercy from Thee, O Saviour.

Since thou hast boldness before the Saviour, O saints, pray unceasingly for us sinners, entreating remission for our transgressions,// and great mercy for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The prophet David was a father of the Lord through thee, O Virgin! He foretold in songs the one who worked wonders in thee: At Thy right hand stood the Queen, Thy Mother, the mediatrix of Life, since God was freely born of her without a father! He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion, so he took the lost sheep upon His shoulder and brought it to His Father, joining it to the heavenly powers.//Christ Who has great and rich mercy has saved the world, O Theotokos!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the martyrs):

Thou art glorified in the memory of Thy saints! May they entreat Thee, O Christ God//to send us great mercy!

As Thou hast accepted the patience of the holy martyrs, accept our song, O Lover of mankind,//granting us by their supplications great mercy.

(For the departed):

O Saviour, give rest with the souls of the righteous, to the souls of Thy departed servants, preserving them in the life of blessedness//which is with Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Candle whose light is never quenched, throne of righteousness,//O most pure Lady, pray that our souls may be saved!

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord, through their sufferings have received their incorruptible crowns from Thee, O our God! For having Thy strength they laid low their adversaries and shattered the powerless boldness of demons!// Through their intercessions, save our souls!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

As with fine porphyry and royal purple, Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyrs' blood shed throughout all the world! She cries to Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy bounties upon Thy people!//Grant peace to Thine habitation and great mercy to our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels is manifest to those on earth through thee, O Theotokos: God being incarnate of thee by union without confusion and of His own will freely enduring the Cross for us and raising the first-formed man,//has saved our souls from death!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(for the departed)*

In Thy compassion and almighty power, O Christ our God, give rest from this temporary life to the souls Thou hast taken to Thyself. In pity forgive what they have done; have mercy on the work of Thy hands, O merciful Lord//through the prayers of the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Those who lived in faith have passed through this temporal life and gone to Thee, the compassionate Lord. Set them in a place on high; put them at Thy right hand on the day of judgment,//passing over the wrong they have done.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Pure Virgin bride of God, thou hast been revealed as the mercy seat of the faithful; their common refuge and ardent mediator. Therefore, become now an intercessor for those who depart to God in faith.//Be a gateway of salvation for them, leading to the wide spaces of paradise!

Octoechos
Tone 4

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

Who will not wonder at thy struggle, O holy martyrs? How in the flesh thou defeated the bodiless enemy! Thou confessed Christ, being armed with the Cross, truly driving the demons away, defeating the evil one!// Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

The mystery of death is terrible indeed! How is the soul forcibly parted from the body? How is the harmony and union broken; the bond of nature severed by the will of God? Therefore we pray to Thee: Give rest to the departed in the dwellings of Thy saints,//Giver of life and Lover of mankind!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

Death became only a sleep for those who believe in Thee when Thou, the Master of all, were laid in the tomb, destroying the power of death and overthrowing its long dominion! Therefore we pray to Thee: Give rest to the departed in the dwellings of Thy saints,//O Giver of life and Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Accepting, O all-pure Virgin, the words of those inspired by God, we believe thee to be the Theotokos! For in ways past understanding thou gave birth to

God made flesh Who delivered us from the bondage of sin. Pray now to Him that He may shine on thy departed servants// with the radiance of His light!

The Octoechos
Tone 5
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

I weep in bitter gloom, seeing the dread vengeance spoken of in the scriptures, for my deeds are without defense or reason. Therefore, condemned, I pray to Thee: Before I meet an end in disaster, before death embraces me, before the fearful judgment, before the sentence which would take me to the unquenchable flames, where there is darkness, worms, and gnashing of teeth, where those who have sinned are consumed, deliver me from my sins, O Christ,//and grant me great mercy!

I have turned aside from Thy laws and scriptures, rejecting Thy commands, O God my Creator. How then can I, condemned, escape the torments which await me? Grant me forgiveness before I die, O Saviour; a mist of tears and true humility, and as our good God, drive far from me the ranks of devils who would drag me to the edge of hell.//I pray Thee, do not take Thine almighty hand from me!

My mind is darkened; I am far from Thee. I have become a slave to sin, surrendering myself to serving the passions that live in my flesh. Now I am condemned and await my passing from this life and the torments which seek me. Woe is me! Grant me to repent in tears, O good Master! Forgive my countless sins!//I pray to Thee in faith, who granted the world great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou wert indeed a throne like the cherubim, higher than the highest angels, for the Word of God dwelt in thee, O pure lady, in His desire to renew our image. Bearing our flesh, He came forth from thee, and as God, in His goodness He endured suffering and the Cross for us, granting us the Resurrection! Therefore let us give thanks to our Creator, Who restored our

condemned nature, and pray that by thy prayers, He may forgive our transgressions,//and grant us great mercy!

The Octoechos
Tone 5

Sunday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Lord, I do not cease my sin; I do not comprehend Thy love for mankind, only good One! But overcome my blindness,//and have mercy on me!

O Lord, even though I fear Thee, I do not cease to do evil. Who at judgment does not fear the judge? Or who, desiring healing, chases away the physician as I do? Have compassion on my infirmity,//and have mercy on me, O patient Lord!

(To the martyrs)

Not rejoicing in earthly things, going forth to tortures bravely, thou, O all-laudable martyrs, did not fail in thy blessed hopes. Since now thou hast boldness before God, the Lover of mankind, entreat peace for the world,// and for our souls, great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

How awesome and glorious is the great mystery! A womb contains the uncontainable! A Mother gives birth and remains a Virgin, for God was born from her, becoming incarnate. With the angels, let us sing this song to Him: Holy are Thou, O Christ our God,//Who took flesh for our sake, glory to Thee!

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

When the Judge takes his seat and the angels stand beside Him when the trumpet sounds and the flames are burning, what will Thou do, O my soul, as thou art led to judgment? Then all thy evil actions will be brought before thee; thy secret faults will be reproved! Therefore, before the end, cry to Christ our God: I have sinned! //Thou knowest all hearts: have mercy on me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

All things here will pass away, O my soul, but there things are eternal! I see the judgment seat and the Judge upon his throne. I tremble at the condemnation He will pass!//Turn back now, O my soul, for the sentence cannot be remitted!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We cry to thee with a joyful voice, O Theotokos, with the angels in heaven and men on earth: Rejoice, gateway wider than the heavens! Rejoice, only salvation of those born on earth! Rejoice, O pure one full of grace!//Rejoice, for thou hast given birth to God in the flesh!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance and the angels)*

I fear the awesome judgment seat and the just condemnation of the Judge, for my conscience continually accuses me. I have lived in pride and I am seized by fright. By thy holy prayers, save me from eternal fire,//O holy archangels, protectors of believers.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thy martyrs, O Lord, longed to drink from the cup of Thy sufferings! They forsook the pleasures of this world and shared the life of the angels!//at their intercessions grant our souls forgiveness and great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

On earth, Gabriel wondrously brought thee the greeting from heaven. As he saw the Creator of the angels take on flesh in thy womb, he intoned a hymn of rejoicing in thine honor to teach mankind that thou alone, O Virgin,//are given to the whole human race as the cause of its joy!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Monday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Woe is me! Why have I become like the barren fig tree? I fear cursing and cutting down! But, O heavenly Gardener, Christ my God, reveal my parched soul to be fruitful. Accept me as Thou didst the prodigal son//and have mercy on me!

Disregard the great number of my transgressions, O Lord born of the Virgin. Blot out all my iniquities; grant me, I pray, a firm intention to change, for Thou art the Lover of mankind,//and have mercy on me!

Blessed is the army of the heavenly King! Though on earth they endured great sufferings, they achieved the rank of angels! They did not care for the flesh and became equals to the bodiless hosts.//By their prayers, O Lord, save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Relieve the anguish of my soul, O Theotokos, for thou remove all tears from the face of the earth. Thou dispel the grief of mortals, thou disperse the sorrow of sinners. O All-holy Virgin Mother,//we have thee as our hope and support!

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Woe is me, for I have angered Thee, my merciful God and Lord! How often, O Christ, have I promised to repent, and been found a senseless liar, for I have soiled the garment in which I was first baptized, and also disregarded the covenants I had with Thee, when clothed in mourning garments, I made Thee again this second profession in the presence of angels and men. And that too, I have set aside.//Do not leave me, O Saviour, to utterly perish.

What answer will thou give, O wretched soul, at the day of judgment? Who shall pluck thee from the eternal fire, and the other torments, when thou stand condemned? No one, if thou do not thyself gain the mercy of the compassionate Lord, by leaving thy evil habits behind, living in a way that is acceptable to God, by weeping each day for thy endless faults committed in thought, word and deed//and by beseeching Christ to grant thee forgiveness of all thou hast done!

Do not let the one who compels habits of sin prevail over me, O Christ, nor let the demon ever battling with me, gain possession of me, and bear me down to his will! Snatch me from their dominion and reign in me Thyself, making me wholly Thy servant, O Lover of mankind, and grant me to live according to Thy will, O Word, to have rest in Thee, to find the means of making amends,//cleansing, salvation, and great mercy.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

From my youth, I have been engrossed in sin; I was lured and misled by Satan; my mind is poisoned by my many evil habits. Now I weep in sorrow over the destruction of my soul. O Lady, do not despise me now, for I am perishing in evil. Take pity on me and deliver me from all assaults and passions, that by thy prayers, before I die,//I may find repentance.

Octoechos
Tone 5

Monday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Lord, I do not cease my sin; I do not comprehend Thy love for man, O only good One! But overcome my blindness,//and have mercy on me!

Even though I fear Thee, O Lord, I do not cease to do evil. Who at judgment does not fear the Judge? Or who, desiring healing, chases away the Physician as I do? Have compassion on my infirmity,//and have mercy on me, O patient Lord!

(To the martyrs)

Putting on the shield of faith and strengthening themselves with the sign of the Cross, Thy saints, O Lord, bravely went of their own accord to torture, laying low the pride and error of the devil. By their supplications, O all-powerful God,//send the world peace, and our souls great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Soothe the pain of my suffering soul, as thou wipe all tears from the face of the earth. For thou drive all suffering from mankind, dispersing the grief of sinners. We find hope and confirmation in thee,//most pure Virgin Mother!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Tuesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

As I lie on the bed of my many sins, I am despoiled of my hope of salvation, for the sleep of laziness will bring punishment upon my soul. But spare me, O Christ my God,//for Thou alone are the Lover of mankind!

Verse: Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

Let us all keep watch, going out to meet the Bridegroom Christ! Let us make our lamps burn brightly with our many acts of compassion! Then we will be counted worthy to enter the bridal chamber. For once we have been shut outside the door,//we will cry to God to no avail: Have mercy on me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The wonderful mystery of the Virgin was the salvation revealed to the world, for Thou, O Lord, wert born of her without human seed. Thou appeared in the flesh without corruption, the joy of all!//O Lord, glory to Thee!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Forerunner)*

Elizabeth was delivered from her barreness and the Virgin preserved her virginity when they conceived in their wombs at the voice of Gabriel. John the Forerunner leaped with joy within His Mother when he recognized in the Virgin's womb//his Master and his God incarnate for our salvation.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thou have given us an invincible rampart, O Christ our God, through the miracles of Thy holy martyrs! By their prayers, disperse the plans of our enemies, and strengthen all in authority,//for Thou alone are good and the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O All-holy Mother of God, O protectress of Christians, save thy people who call upon thee with confidence and fervor. Drive away the baseness of our wandering thoughts that we may cry out to thee://Rejoice, O ever Virgin Mother!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Woe is me! why have I become like the barren fig tree? I fear cursing and cutting down! But, O heavenly Gardener, Christ my God, reveal my parched soul to be fruitful. accept me as Thou didst the prodigal Son//and have mercy on me!

Disregard the great number of my transgressions, O Lord, born of the Virgin. Blot out all my iniquities; grant me, I pray, a firm intention to change, for Thou art the Lover of mankind,//and have mercy on me!

They struggled on earth and persevered in the heights: they were handed over to fire and the water received them! It is said of them: We went through fire and through water, and Thou hast brought us forth to a place of rest!//By their intercessions, O God, have mercy on us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Holy lady, O Virgin Theotokos, hope of the hopeless, life of those who despair, the help of those who cry to thee://Send down for us thy help!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Tuesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

When Thou wert lifted as a lamb upon the Cross, Thou overthrew the arrogance of the deceiver. Being slaughtered, Thou sanctified the whole earth

with Thy blood. Being pierced with the spear, Thou commanded the flaming sword to turn back from me, and the gate of Paradise to let me in: Thou told me to delight without fear in the tree of life! Thus saved by Thy passion, I cry in joy: Glory to Thy divine Cross through which we have been delivered from the ancient curse,//received the blessing of the tree, and great mercy!

In Thy desire to end the suffering and shame of mankind, Thou endured a shameful crucifixion, O Lord. Thou, in Whom there is no guile, tasted of gall, my Saviour. Thou wert wounded in the side with a spear, healing our wounds, O good Master. Therefore we sing of Thy glorious desire; We venerate the spear, the sponge, and the reed,//by which Thou hast granted the world peace and great mercy!

How has the lawless multitude of Jews mercilessly condemned Thee to be nailed to the Cross, O compassionate Lord? Thy Mother wept when she beheld Thee, the Child she once bore without pain now lifted upon the Cross: What has this lawless assembly done to Thee, O my Child, my heart's desire, my well-beloved Son? Make haste to save those who glorify in faith Thy crucifixion,//and who magnify me, only good One.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

In Thy desire for our salvation, Thou paid the greatest price, O Lord: Thou shed Thy blood for us! Thy Mother beheld Thee nailed to the Cross, and cried: My Son, my spotless Lamb! How can Thou go down before my eyes, O Saviour, the never-setting Sun Who enlightens all mankind,//granting the world great mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Once in the days of Moses the prophet, a figure of Thy Cross was made manifest, conquering Thine enemies! Now that we have Thy Cross itself, we

beseech Thy help: Strengthen Thy Church, O Lover of mankind,//for the sake of Thy great mercy!

Though Thy Cross, O Christ, is wood to the eye, yet it is adorned with divine power, and makes itself felt throughout the world, spiritually working the miracle of our salvation. Venerating it, we glorify Thee//Have mercy on us, O Saviour!

(To the martyrs)

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs, that we may be delivered from our sins,//for the grace to pray for us is given to thee.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O My Maker and God was clothed in me, assuming my entire form in His desire to renew it as it was in Adam before the fall. By His own will, He was lifted up without guilt upon the Cross, and His hands of His own accord were nailed, healing the hands which of old were weakened by taking the fruit. As she beheld Him, His most pure Mother cried: What ineffable patience is Thine, my Son! I cannot bear to behold Thee lifted upon the Cross,//for Thou holdest the earth in the palm of Thy hand!

Octoechos

Tone 5

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

O Faithful, let us glorify and sing the praises of our Saviour and Redeemer! He accepted crucifixion with His own foreknowledge and consent! He has nailed the sins of mortals upon His Cross,//delivering us from error and granting us the kingdom!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

O Saviour, by Thine own free choice, Thou endured the Cross and set us free from corruption! We the faithful sing Thy praises and worship Thee, for Thou have given us light by the might of the Cross! O Compassionate Christ, the Lover of mankind,//we glorify Thee as Lord and Giver of life!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Standing beside the Cross of the Lord, the Theotokos cried aloud lamenting: Woe is me, my Son! Woe is me, the light of my eyes! How art Thou stretched upon a Cross, for in Thy divine power Thou stretched out the heavens as a curtain,//and at Thy command called up the fountains of water from the sea?

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

The sayings of the prophets are fulfilled, for behold, Thine ancient plan has been carried out: Thou, the King of all, have willingly become poor and taken flesh! For us, Thou went up on the Cross and suffered death. Thus, O Word, we glorify Thy condescension//which surpasses all understanding!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thou hast made Thy victorious martyrs mighty defenders of the world, O Lord and Saviour, putting the passions to flight!//At their intercessions, save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When I sis Thine eyes close, O my beloved Son, then my light is extinguished, for I can no longer endure the sight of the sun. I would wish Thee to take away my vision, O Word! Hide thyself, O light of the sun! He whose Word caused thy light to shine//has closed His eyes on the Cross!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

Once in the days of Moses the prophet, a figure of Thy Cross was made manifest, conquering Thine enemies! Now that we have Thy Cross itself, we beseech Thy help: Strengthen Thy church, O Lover of mankind,//for the sake of Thy great mercy!

Thy Cross, O Christ, voided the power of hell, but it saved the human race! Redeeming the world from corruption, it opened paradise to the thief! Falling down in worship before it we glorify Thee://O Saviour, have mercy on us!

Thy victory-bearers, O Lord, imitated the ranks of angels, for they held up under tortures as though they were bodiless, having only one thought: the hope of enjoying the promised blessings! By their intercessions, O Christ our God,//grant peace to the world, and to our souls, great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the ewe-lamb and Virgin saw Thee going like a lamb to slaughter, O Word, she cried: what a new and strange wonder! How can transgressors be killing the One Who gives life to mankind?//Great is Thy mercy, O my Son!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Wednesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the apostles)

Thou went out over all the earth, sowing the seed of divine teaching, disciples of the Lord! Thou took with thee the Word alone, as thine only light and thine only riches. With it thou confounded kings and tyrants, trapping orators and philosophers in the web woven by their jealous fury. Thou called all mankind to knowledge of the Creator, tearing them from the vain service of idols. Therefore, by thy prayers, I entreat thee//to deliver me from unreasoning passions.

By thy prayers to God, O most blessed apostles, may He deliver us all from the storm of temptations, the fearful quarrels of infamous heresies, the evil counsels of the devil, the bitter company of evil people, the storms which come in this life, the fire that gives no light and the undying worm, the gnashing of teeth and every form of torture, that through abstinence and labor we may receive the reward of virtue,//inheritance in the kingdom and great mercy!

Receiving plainly as far as the nature of mankind is able the whole light of God, the second Person of the Trinity's ineffable dispensation, the twelve apostles showed themselves with common zeal to be forming a perfect assembly, together with the two and seventy. They enlightened the ends of the earth darkened by the pollution of error,//and they pray to God to grant the world great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O seal of all prophecy; rejoice, O preaching of the apostles! Rejoice, O Virgin, for God ineffably took flesh from thee, and we have received our first nobility! Once again we taste of the fruit of paradise! Therefore, we honor thee with songs, for thou art our intercessor before God,//Who grants the world great mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(stikhera to the apostles)

Disciples of the Saviour, thou wert eye-witnesses of the mystery of the invisible one without beginning, and thou said: In the beginning was the Word. Yet thou wert not created before the angels nor didst thou learn these things from mankind, but thou hast the wisdom from above. Therefore, since thou hast boldness before the Lord,//pray to Him that our souls may be saved.

Let us praise the apostles of the Lord in song, for bearing the armor of the Cross they overcame the deceit of idolatry, and were crowned with victory! By their prayers and those of all the saints,// have mercy on us, O God.

(To the martyrs)

With thy souls filled with unquenchable love, thou endured the most terrible sufferings without denying Christ, and cast down the tyrant's pride. Thou kept the faith unchanged and unharmed and have gone to dwell in heaven. Since Thou hast boldness before the Lord,//pray that He may grant us great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We call thee blessed, O Virgin Theotokos, and rightfully glorify thee: the unshakeable wall, the invincible city,//the firm protection and refuge of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the apostles)*

Let us, together with all mankind, glorify the wise apostles in spiritual hymns and songs! They were eyewitnesses of the Word and servants of Christ! They pray fervently to Christ on our behalf//as we praise their holy memory and venerate their relics.

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!

Let us glorify the apostles of Christ with one accord, for they shine as torches throughout the world! They have caught the nations in the net of the true faith; bringing us light, they teach us to honor the holy Trinity,// One in Essence, yet unique in Persons!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Unwedded bride and ever-Virgin, we ever sing thy praises in the company of the angels, for thy Son and God has done great things for us through thee. Begotten before all ages from the Father, He was pleased to be contained within thy womb,//and to set us free from error!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the apostles)*

O Lord, some fishermen without learning confounded philosophers and closed the mouths of orators as they preached the ineffable mystery of Thy coming in the flesh. They became the wise teachers of the nations, enlightening the ends of the universe with the radiance of the knowledge of God.//By their prayers, grant us great mercy.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

The powers of heaven marveled greatly at the victory of the holy martyrs! For contending in their mortal bodies, they invisibly conquered the bodiless enemy by the might of the Cross! Now they intercede before the Lord,//that He may have mercy on our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Hasten to bring us help and protection; show thy mercy to thy servants, holy Virgin. Calm the storm of our foolish thoughts. O Mother of God, raise up my fallen soul!//O Virgin, I know that thou can do whatever thou desire.

Octoechos
Tone 5

Thursday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Disciples of the Saviour, thou wert the eye-witnesses of the mystery of the invisible one without beginning, and thou said: In the beginning was the

Word...! Yet thou wert not created before the angels, nor did thou learn these things from others, but thou hast the wisdom from above. Therefore, since thou hast boldness before the Lord,//pray to Him that our souls may be saved.

Let us praise the apostles of the Lord in song, for bearing the armor of the Cross they overcame the deceit of idolatry, and were crowned with victory! By their prayers and those of all the saints,//have mercy on us, O God!

(to the martyrs)

In their torments, the saints cried out, rejoicing, This is the exchange we make with the Master: In return for the wounds inflicted on our bodies, He will clothe us at the resurrection with a garment of light! In return for dishonor, we shall receive crowns; in return for imprisonment, Paradise; in return for condemnation with evildoers, life with the angels!//Through their prayers, O Lord, save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Hear our voice, O fore-chosen one, and grant the requests of our souls: Deliver us from passions and sorrows, for as the Mother of God, thou can do all things,//through the apostles.

Octoechos
Tone 5

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Let all the trees of the forest rejoice at the sight of Thy most precious Cross! For it found favor by Thy passion, O Master, and it shines forth grace as with a flaming fire! It showers gifts as water upon all mankind; it illumines our souls and thoughts, it washes sickness away and drives out passions! It chases unseen devils and openly defeats the enemy, it grants victories to Orthodox

Christians over their adversaries,//and bestows upon the faithful blessing and great mercy!

Let us venerate, as the prophets said, the place where the Lord's feet have stood: Let us glorify Christ crucified, Who crucified our transgressions, destroyed the curse of the tree, and reconciled to the Father those whose thoughts had cut them off from Him. We honor the nails in His hands and feet, the reviling and the mockery; we honor the spear, the reed, the sponge and the crown,//and all that He endured, that we might be saved!

Let us who desire to follow in the steps of Christ, crucify all our members in Him who rules the world. Let us die to the world and take up His divine Cross on our shoulders by turning from the desire of our flesh and evil passions which draw the soul towards sin. Let us reflect that we stand before Him and behold Him nailed to the Cross, where He commended His soul with a loud cry into the hands of the Father,//that we might be with Him in eternity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

In Thy desire for our salvation, Thou paid the greatest price, O Lord: Thou shed Thy blood for us! Thy Mother beheld Thee nailed to the Cross, and cried: O My Son, my spotless Lamb! O Saviour, how can Thou go down before my eyes, the never-setting Sun Who enlightens all mankind,//granting the world great mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Once in the days of Moses the prophet, a figure of Thy Cross was made manifest, conquering Thine enemies! Now that we have Thy Cross itself, we beseech Thy help: Strengthen Thy Church, O Lover of mankind,//for the sake of Thy great mercy!

Though Thy Cross, O Christ, seems only wood to the eye, yet it is adorned with divine power, and makes itself felt throughout the world, spiritually working the miracle of our salvation. Venerating it, we glorify Thee://Have mercy on us, O Saviour!

(To the martyrs)

Not rejoicing in earthly things, going forth to tortures bravely, thou, all-laudable martyrs did not fail in thy blessed hopes. Since now thou hast boldness before God, the Lover of mankind, entreat peace for the world,//and for our souls, great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When she saw her Son, the Lamb, lifted upon the Cross, Thy Mother, the blessed maiden and Virgin, cried: Woe is me, O my Son! How can Thou be dying,//when by nature Thou art immortal God?

Octoechos
Tone 5

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

The place of the skull has become paradise, for as soon as the wood of the Cross was planted there, it bore at once the fruit of life://O Saviour, Thou hast brought us joy: Glory to Thee!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

The wood of Thy Cross, O our Saviour, has brought salvation to the world: For Thou, the joy of all, were willingly nailed on it! Thou hast delivered those who dwell on earth from the curse!//O Lord, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When Thy Mother beheld Thee, O Christ, hanging by Thine own free choice upon the Cross between two thieves, her heart was pierced with a Mother's grief and she cried out: O my Son, how art Thou, the sinless One, nailed unjustly to the Cross as an evildoer?//It is because Thou willest to restore mankind to life in Thine all surpassing love!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Adam tasted bitterness from the forbidden tree when the envy of the serpent led him to his fall. But when Thou wert crucified, he regained life! Through the tree of the Cross, he entered the heavenly homeland again! The serpent was crushed, death was swallowed up,//and we give glory to Thee, O Lord our God!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Today the memorial of the victorious martyrs shines with light from heaven! The choir of angels keeps the festival, and mankind celebrates the feast with them! For they intercede before the Lord//that He may have mercy on our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

In tears, the Mother of God wept and said: Gabriel brought me the announcement of salvation, saying that Thou would be with me, O Lord. How, then, can my joy be changed to sorrow? How can I appear childless, for without knowing a man I brought Thee into the world, O my Son,//as the Saviour of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

No sooner had the wood of Thy Cross been planted, O Christ, than the ancestral error was driven out and grace burst forth in flower! For the punishment of condemnation is no more, but the Cross was revealed to us as a symbol of the victory of salvation! The Cross is our support; the Cross is our boast!//The Cross is our means of fervent joy!

Thy Cross, O Christ, destroyed the power of hell, but it saved the human race! Redeeming the world from corruption, it opened paradise to the thief! Falling down in worship before it we glorify Thee://O Saviour, have mercy on us!

(To the martyrs)

Blessed is the army of the heavenly King! Though on earth they endured great sufferings, they achieved the rank of angels! They did not care for the flesh and became equals to the bodiless hosts.//By their prayers, O Lord, save our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

End the grief of my much-afflicted soul! Cried the blameless one to Christ as she lamented: For although Thou art saving mortals by Thy passion, yet Thou art wounding my soul, O Word! Thou art my light, Thou art my sweetest Child, Who fashioned me!//I sing in praise of Thy long-suffering!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

Putting on the shield of faith and strengthening themselves with the sign of the Cross, Thy saints, O Lord, bravely went of their own accord to torture, laying low the pride and error of the devil. By their supplications, O all-powerful God,//send the world peace, and our souls great mercy! *(twice)*

Not rejoicing in earthly things, but going forth to tortures bravely, thou, O all-laudable martyrs did not fail in thy blessed hopes. Since now Thou hast boldness before God, the Lover of mankind, entreat peace for the world,// and for our souls, great mercy.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

In the Red Sea of old, a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured. There Moses divided the waters; here Gabriel assisted in the miracle. There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet; here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed. After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassible; after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin. O Ever existing God, who appeared as Man,// O Lord, have mercy on us!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

Intercede for us, O holy martyrs, that we may be delivered from our sins,//for the grace to pray for us is given to thee.

Thy souls filled with unquenchable love, thou endured the most terrible sufferings without denying Christ, and cast down the tyrant's pride. Thou kept the faith unchanged and unharmed and have gone to dwell in heaven. Since thou hast boldness before the Lord,//pray that He may grant us great mercy!

(For the departed)

I called to mind the prophet's words: I am dust and ashes! I went also to the tombs and beheld the naked bones, and I said: Who now is the king or the

soldier, the rich or the poor? The righteous or the sinners? But give rest to Thy servants with the saints, O Lord,//since Thou art the Lover of mankind.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Intercede for us with thy prayers, O joyful one, and plead for great compassion for our souls,//and the blotting out of our many transgressions.

Octoechos
Tone 5

Saturday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn ***(to the martyrs)***

Thy martyrs, O Lord, longed to drink from the cup of Thy sufferings; they forsook the pleasures of this world and shared in the life of the angels!//At their intercessions grant peace to our souls!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

Through the miracles of Thy holy martyrs, O Christ our God, Thou hast given us a rampart which cannot be destroyed. At their prayers, defeat our enemies and strengthen those in authority,// for Thou alone are good and the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Christ our God Who shone forth upon the world from a Virgin, through her, making us sons of light,//and have mercy on us!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn ***(to the martyrs)***

Thou hast given us an invincible rampart, O Christ our God, through the miracles of Thy holy martyrs! By their prayers, disperse the plans of our enemies, and strengthen all in authority,//for Thou alone are good and the Lover of mankind!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Give rest with the righteous to Thy servants, O our Saviour, and make them dwell in Thy courts, as it is written, in Thy goodness, passing over all their trespasses, both voluntary and involuntary, with every sin committed in knowledge or in ignorance,//for Thou alone are the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Virgin Mother, O unwedded Bride, thou brought the Saviour into the world and gave birth to Him in the perfection of two natures: Together with the holy prophets, martyrs and all the saints, entreat Him that he may grant peace to the world//and great mercy to our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 5

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

In their torments, the saints cried out, rejoicing, This is the exchange we make with the Master: In return for the wounds inflicted on our bodies, He will clothe us at the Resurrection with a garment of light! In return for dishonor, we shall receive crowns; in return for imprisonment, paradise; in return for condemnation with evildoers, life with the angels!// Through their prayers, O Lord, save our souls!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

With the splendor of Thy countenance, O Christ, and in Thy compassion, shine on the departed; lead them to a place of green pasture, beside the still waters of Thy divine rest. Give them repose, according to their hearts' desire, with Abraham the forefather, where Thy light is made manifest in all its purity, and the streams of Thy love flow out, where the choirs of saints rejoice and exult in Thy goodness.//Place Thy suppliants with them and grant them Thy great mercy!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

Look down in Thy compassion upon those who have departed to Thee from this temporary life; grant that with one accord they may glorify Thy power, O Master of all and Lover of mankind! Shine upon them with Thy beauty and call them to share with pure hearts in the joy of Thy presence, where the angels rejoice around Thy throne and the companies of saints attend Thee with their songs of praise!//Give Thy servants rest with them and grant them Thy great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We were enslaved by the law of sin, O all-pure Lady, but thou hast set us free, O only Mother and Virgin, by conceiving in thy womb God the King and Giver of the law! Through Him we are justified freely and by grace! Entreat Him now to write down in the book of life the names of those who sing thy praises as the Mother of God; that being saved through thy mediation, we may receive from thy Son the deliverance for which we pray,//worshipping Him Who grants the world great mercy!

Tone 6
Octoechos
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance by the monk Joseph)

I wander in sin every hour of the day: Humble my thoughts and give me tears of repentance, O Saviour, that I may wash away the evil filth of my soul! Thy holy mother prays for this with the choir of angels,//and we know Thee as the Lover of mankind.

Come, O my soul, and repent of the many sins thou hast committed in thy life. Pray to the hosts of angels with tears and sighs that time may be given thee to repent, that thou not be cast out like the barren fig tree//into the tormenting flames of hell.

I have not obeyed a single command on this earth. How then shall I appear to answer before Thy throne when Thou wilt sit in judgment of all I have done both in knowledge and in ignorance? Therefore I cry to Thee, O Christ: Save me through the prayers of Thy saints,//for I have gone astray.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

At the word of the archangel, O Theotokos, thou conceived the Word in thy womb: The One Who existed from all eternity with the Father and the Spirit.//Thou rose higher than the cherubim, the seraphim, and the thrones!

Octoechos
Tone 6
Sunday **Vespers**
Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

At Thy terrible coming, O Christ, may we not hear the words: I do not know thee! For we have put our hope in Thee, and if through neglect we have not kept Thy commands,//yet we entreat Thee to have mercy on our souls.

I have not gained repentance or tears, therefore I entreat Thee, O Christ God: Turn me back before I die,//that I may find mercy and be delivered from torments.

(To the martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, did not deny Thee, nor did they turn from Thy commandments.//By their intercessions have mercy on us.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Let us the faithful sing with the archangel to the sealed door and heavenly chamber: Rejoice, O Lady, through whom Christ the Saviour of all came forth for us, the God and Giver of life! Defeat our godless enemies and those who torment us, O pure one,//the hope of all Christians!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Monday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

I think upon the fearful day and lament my evil acts. What answer shall I give to the immortal King? What boldness will I, the prodigal, have when I gaze upon the judge? Compassionate Father, only-begotten Son and Holy Spirit,//have mercy on me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

In the valley of lamentation, in the place Thou hast appointed, when Thou shall sit, O merciful Lord, to execute just judgment, do not publish my secret sins; do not condemn me before the angels, but spare me, O my God,//and have mercy on me!

Glory... Now and ever... (Theotokion)

With our whole heart and never silent voices, let us praise the most glorious Mother of God! She is more holy than the holy angels! Let us confess her as Theotokos, for in very truth she gave birth to God made flesh,//and without ceasing she prays for our souls!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

O my soul, thou hast pass thine entire life heedlessly; thou forget the terrible day of judgment! Awaken and choose repentance! Come before Christ and cry out to Him: O Lord and God of love,//do not remember the great number of our sins when Thou comest to judge us!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

There is light at all times for the righteous! For illumined by Thee, the saints ever shine as the stars of heaven! They darken the lamp of the godless!//At their prayers, O my Lord and Saviour, make my lamp shine and save me!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

With our whole heart and never-silent voices, let us praise the glorious Mother of God who is holier than the angels. Let us confess her to be the Theotokos, for in truth she gave birth to God in the flesh//and she ever prays for our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Monday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Saviour, heal the wounds of my heart left by my many sins! Physician of souls and bodies, grant forgiveness of faults to those who ask. Ever give me

tears of repentance, releasing me from what I owe Thee, O Lord,//and have mercy on me!

Finding me naked of virtues, the enemy wounded me with the arrow of sin, but as Physician of souls and bodies, heal the wounds of my soul, O God,// and have mercy on me!

O Lord, all creation feasts in the memory of Thy saints! Heaven rejoices with angels and earth celebrates with mankind!//By their prayers, have mercy on us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou accepted the word of the archangel, and were revealed as the throne of the cherubim! O Theotokos, thou held thine arms//the Hope of our souls!

Octoechos

Tone 6 **Monday**

Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Who will not weep for me, a transgressor of the Lord's commands? I find myself in bitterness through unrestrained gazing at deadening pleasures. Because of this I am cut off from life and the glory of God. But accept me in repentance, O Lord, for the sake of Thy great mercy.

Behold my sickness and my sorrow, the many transgressions which cause turmoil in my soul; behold my mind's bewilderment, and understand the voice of one forsaken and judged. Grant me a contrite soul and humble heart, O Lord, bestow on me the gift of tears, granting me the remission of my many sins//for the sake of Thy great mercy.

Thou desire that all mankind be saved, O God, therefore consider and hear my prayers. Do not despise my tears as though they are vain, for who has

come to Thee with tears and not been saved? Who has cried to Thee fervently and not been heard? But Thou hasten to save those who call upon Thee, O Master,//in Thy great and all unsurpassable mercy.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The remembrance of wrongs is a sign of anger and irritation and is the sickness of hate! Because of these, terrible insults that come without shame from my mouth. It is written: the person who acts thus is liable to the fire of Hell! Therefore, watch, O my soul: Flee from bitter irritation, wrath, malice and insult and every poisonous word. Cry out to the Theotokos://Save me, O my Lady!

Octoechos

Tone 6 **Monday**

Vespers

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

At Thy terrible coming, O Christ, may we not hear the words: I do not know thee! For we have put our hope in Thee. And if through neglect we have not kept Thy commands,//yet we entreat Thee to have mercy on our souls.

I have not gained repentance or tears, therefore I entreat Thee, O Christ God: Turn me back before I die,//that I may find mercy and be delivered from torments.

(To the martyrs)

Those who suffered martyrdom for Thy sake, O Christ, endured great torments. They received as their reward a perfect crown in the heavens,// that they might intercede for our souls

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos and Virgin, thou art the transformation of the afflicted and the deliverance of the weak. Only protector of the faithful, thou bring peace to those in battle, tranquility to those in storms://Save this country and people!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Tuesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Give me, O Lord, the watchfulness of the wise virgins, and make the lamp of my soul burn brightly with the oil of Thy compassion, that I may sing to Thee the hymn of the angels://Alleluia!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for laying aside all excuse, we sinners offer to Thee, as Master, this supplication://Have mercy on us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Blessed Theotokos, open the doors of compassion to us whose hope is in thee, that we may not perish but be delivered from adversity through thee,//for thou art the salvation of the Christian people!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the Forerunner)*

As thou hast shown all people the ways of life, O holy John, crying out: Prepare thy hearts for the Lord! Save my soul which is burdened by sins. Penetrate the hardness of my heart with compunction and save me from eternal punishment by thy prayers,//O Forerunner of the Saviour.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

The saints suffered and contended with patient endurance and received from Thee the prize of victory! They laid low the schemes of the transgressors, and were granted crowns of incorruption! At their prayers, O God,// bestow on us Thy great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

I take refuge in thee, O pure Virgin, seeking salvation, although the multitude of my sins is great, O Mother of God. Visit my weakened soul, O Virgin, who is blessed among women,//and ask thy Son and our God to grant me his pardon for my base deeds!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Saviour, heal the wounds of my heart left by my many sins! O Physician of souls and bodies, grant forgiveness of faults to those who ask. Ever give me tears of penitence, releasing me from what I owe Thee, O Lord,//and have mercy on me!

Finding me naked of virtues, the enemy wounded me with the arrow of sin, but as the Physician of souls and bodies, heal the wounds of my soul, O God,//and have mercy on me!

(to the martyrs)

If we did not have Thy saints as our intercessors, and Thy goodness, O Lord, which shares our sufferings, how would we dare, O Saviour, to sing praises to Thee, Whom the angels unceasingly bless?//As Thou doth know our hearts, spare our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Purest Virgin Theotokos, no one who runs to thee departs in shame. One who asks for grace receives the gift//responding to his worthy request!

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

When Thou wert crucified, O long suffering Lord, the whole earth trembled, but the hearts of the faithful were made firm in strength. Therefore we sing Thy praises,//and glorify with love Thine ineffable power.

Buffeted and spat upon Thou struck a blow, O Christ, at the evil of the poisonous enemy, putting an end to the fall of Adam,//who had been lost life by seizing at forbidden knowledge.

When they beheld Thee, O Lord, unjustly hung upon the wood, in Thy desire to save us, the sun was darkened, and the whole earth quaked.//The rocks split in terror.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the lawless men nailed Thee unjustly to the cross, O Lord, Thy blessed Mother looked on, and as Simeon had foretold,//a sharp sword pierced her heart.

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Thy cross, O Lord is life and resurrection for Thy people! And we who put our trust in it, praising Thee as our God Who was crucified in the flesh.// Have mercy on us.

Thy cross, O Christ, has opened paradise for mankind, and we were delivered from corruption, praising Thee as our God Who was crucified in the flesh.// Have mercy on us.

(To the martyrs)

The passion bearing martyrs, those citizens of heaven, suffered on earth, enduring many tortures.// By their intercessions and prayers, preserve us, O Lord!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the pure Theotokos saw life itself hanging on the cross, she wept like a Mother and cried aloud: O My Son and my God,//save those who sing to Thee in love!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Today the words of the prophet are fulfilled: for behold, O Lord, we worship at the place where Thy feet have stood! Tasting from the tree of salvation, we have been delivered from our sinful passions through the intercessions of the Theotokos,//O only Lover of mankind!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Thy Cross, O Lord is holy, and brings healing to those who are in sickness through their sins. As we venerate it, we fall before Thee://Have mercy on us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the ever-Virgin maiden who gave birth to Thee saw Thee raised for our sake on the Cross, a sword of sorrow pierced her soul and she wept with a Mother's grief. At her intercessions, O Lord of mercy,//have mercy on us.

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

The forbidden tree in Eden brought death to the first Adam, while the tree of the Cross on Golgotha made life blossom forth. Adam was seduced by the malice of the enemy, but when Christ was nailed to the tree, we found grace and returned to paradise, crying out://O Blessed is the tree of the Cross!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Persecuted by tyrants, the martyrs endured and suffered bravely in the arena! Near them stood the choirs of angels, holding wreaths of victory. In their wisdom they astonished rulers and kings and by confessing Christ they overthrew the devil! O Lord who made them strong,//Glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Mother of God and blessed Virgin, pray to thy Son, Christ our God, Who allowed Himself to be nailed to the Cross to deliver the world from error,//for the salvation of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

In Thy Cross I possess my hope and boasting in it, I cry: Cast down the arrogance of those who do not confess Thee as God and Man,//O Lord and Lover of mankind!

We who are protected by the Cross are able to withstand the enemy, not fearing his snares or cunning; for the proud one was cast down and trampled underfoot//by the power of Christ who was nailed to the tree!

(To the martyrs)

The memory of the martyrs is joy to those who fear the Lord! Having contended for Christ and received crowns from Him,//they now boldly intercede for our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the all-pure one saw Thee suspended on the Cross she cried out with a Mother's tears: O My Son and my God, my sweetest Child,//how can Thou bear this most shameful suffering?

Octoechos
Tone 6

Wednesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Apostles)

O Divine ones who were witnesses of God, His disciples and ministers of His great mystery, thou received the grace of healing,//and cure the sickness of all mankind.

O Apostles of the Lord, and eye-witnesses of God, thou art the mighty refuge and protection of our souls, driving away evil spirits. Therefore we ever honor thee.

O Blessed apostles, deliver from all calamity and harm caused by the devil, from transgression and the bondage of evil,//those who praise thee in faith.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The evil adversary jealous of thy flock, O most pure one, always battles and desires us as food for himself.//But deliver us from this danger, O Theotokos!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

Thine apostles, O Lord, once went down to the bottom of the sea with their nets, and then because of their decrees they attained the top most height of the kingdom. For by their knowledge of their craft they explored the unfathomed deep, while by their faith they reached Thine infinite bosom, and proclaimed Thy timeless Son to the world!//By their intercessions and those of all the saints, have mercy on us.

When Thy disciples, O Christ, were caught by a storm in their ship they cried out to Thee: save us, for we perish, Master! Now we too cry out: Deliver us from our distress, we pray Thee,//O our Saviour, the Lover of mankind!

(To the martyrs)

Thy Cross, O Lord, was an invincible weapon for the martyrs. They saw death before them, but looking to the life that is to come, they were strengthened by their hope in Thee.//By their intercessions have mercy on us.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Lady, I lift up the eye of my heart to thee; do not despise my feeble sighs in the hour when thy Son shall come to judge the world,//but be my helper and protector.

Octoechos
Tone 6

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the apostles)*

As Thou wert present in the midst of Thy disciples and gave them peace,//come also now to us and save us, O Saviour!

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!

Thy disciples, O Jesus, were sent to the ends of the earth, and in their zeal for the true faith they caught the nations like fish and brought them as an offering to Thee, O loving Lord! Trusting in their prayers we cry to Thee://Grant Thy people great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Holy Lady, Mother of Christ our God, thou hast ineffably borne the maker of all! In unity with the holy apostles, pray to Him at all times, that in His love He may release us from the passions//and grant us remission of our sins.

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the apostles)*

Filling their boats through the net of faith, the fishers of men have drawn out from the depths of error all those whom they offered to God//as worshippers who ever magnify Him.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

The memorial of Thy martyrs, O Lord, is like paradise in Eden, for it brings joy to all creation!//At their prayers grant us peace and Thy great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Standing in the temple of thy glory, we think that we are in heaven! O Theotokos, who art the gate of heaven, //open to us the gate of thy mercy!

(To the apostles)

Thine apostles, O Lord, once went down to the bottom of the sea with their nets, and then because of their decrees they attained the top most height of the kingdom. For by their knowledge of their craft they explored the unfathomed deep, while by their faith they reached Thine infinite bosom, and proclaimed Thy timeless Son to the world!//By their intercessions and those of all the saints, have mercy on us!

When Thy disciples, O Christ, were caught by a storm in their ship they cried out to Thee: Save us, Master, for we perish! Now we too cry out: Deliver us from our distress, we pray Thee,//O our Saviour, the Lover of mankind!

(To the martyrs)

Our God has shown marvelous things in His saints. Rejoice and be glad, O His servants! He has prepared crowns and His kingdom for thee!//But do not forget us, we entreat thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Pure Virgin Mother of God, thou wert found worthy of great gifts, for thou bore in the flesh one of the Trinity, Christ the Giver of life,//for the salvation of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

O Lover of mankind, my forbearing and compassionate and most merciful God, how hast Thou on behalf of mankind endured being sent to the slaughter and being put to death on the tree?//We glorify Thy goodness!

O Long-suffering Lord, Who endured buffeting, insults and crucifixion, in Thy desire to deliver all mankind from the hands of the deceiver: Thou alone are the Giver of life,//enduring all things, Good One.

The Shepherd ascended the Cross, and as He stretched out His hands He cried: Come to Me, people, darkened by delusion, and be enlightened, for I am the true Light!//Glory to Thee, O only Giver of light!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When Thy most pure Mother beheld Thee nailed to the tree she cried out: O My Son and my God, what is this strange sight I see,//that Thou suffer in Thy great mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Thy Cross, O Lord, is life and resurrection for Thy people! And we who put our trust in it, praise Thee, our God crucified in the flesh.//Have mercy on us.

Thy Cross, O Christ, has opened paradise for mankind, and we being delivered from corruption, praise Thee, our God crucified in the flesh.//Have mercy on us.

(To the martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, did not deny Thee, nor did they turn from Thy commandments.//By their intercessions have mercy on us.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The Virgin stood beside the wood at the time of Thy crucifixion together with Thy virgin disciple. She lamented and cried aloud: Woe is me! How do Thou, O Christ, impassibility itself,//suffer all things?

Octoechos
Tone 6

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

When the wood of Thy Cross was set up, O Christ our Lord, the foundations of death were shaken! Hell swallowed Thee eagerly, but it let Thee go with trembling! Thou hast shown us Thy salvation, O holy One, and we glorify Thee. O Son of God//have mercy on us!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Thy people condemned Thee to death, O Lord, yet Thou art the life of all: With Moses' rod Thou led them on dry ground through the Red Sea, yet they nailed Thee to the Cross; Thou fed them with honey from the rock, yet they gave Thee gall. But Thou willingly endured these things to free us from the bondage of the enemy!//O Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Virgin Theotokos, thy Son, Christ our God, was nailed of His own will upon the Cross. He has risen from the dead!//Pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

O Blessed tree of the Cross, thou heal all ills and expel all demons! Thou art the strength and protection of believers, the prize of kings and true pride of the Orthodox, the support of the church of Christ://Be our safeguard, our assurance and our rampart!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints; the God of Israel!

The Lord has given glory to those who preached Christ in the arena, and did not fear the threats of the ungodly. They suffered bravely and cast down the pride of the transgressors! Christ gave them the grace of healing as their due reward! Without ceasing they make intercession//for the salvation of our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O All-holy Mother of God, do not abandon me in my life-time, do not deliver me over to human protection.//Protect me thyself and have mercy on me!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

In Thy Cross I possess my hope; boasting in it, I cry: Cast down the arrogance of those who do not confess Thee as God and Man,//O Lord and Lover of mankind!

We who are protected by the Cross are able to withstand the enemy, not fearing his snares or cunning; for the proud one was cast down and trampled underfoot//by the power of Christ Who was nailed to the tree!

(To the martyrs)

In the memory of Thy saints, O Lord, all creation feasts! Heaven rejoices with angels and earth celebrates with men!//By their prayers, have mercy on us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As Man I was fastened to the tree and slain, and placed in the grave as mortal, but, O my Mother and pure Virgin, as God, I will arise again in glory//on the third day!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, did not deny Thee, nor did they turn from Thy commandments.//By their intercessions have mercy on us. *(twice)*

Thy victorious martyrs, when they contended on this earth, endured great torments; but now they dwell in heaven and have received a perfect crown,//that they may offer intercession for our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin? Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing? The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father, but from thee he was ineffably incarnate! God by nature, He became Man for our sake! Not divided into two persons but known as One in two natures. Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//to have mercy on our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 6

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

Those who suffered martyrdom for Thee, O Christ, endured great torments://Preserve us by their prayers and intercessions, O Lord!

Thy Cross, O Lord, was an invincible weapon for the martyrs. They saw death before them, but looking to the life that is to come, they were

strengthened by their hope in Thee.//By their intercessions have mercy on us.

(For the departed)

Thy creating command was my origin and my foundation. For Thou willed to fashion me as a living creature from natures visible and invisible: Thou made my body from the earth and gave me a soul by Thy divine and life-creating breath. Therefore, O Saviour, grant rest to Thy servants in the land of the living,//in the mansions of the righteous!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

By the prayers of her who bore Thee, O Christ, and of Thy martyrs, apostles and prophets, of the holy hierarchs, monks and righteous and of all Thy saints,//give rest to Thy servants who have fallen asleep.

Octoechos

Tone 6

Saturday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

The saints suffered and contended with patient endurance! They received the prize of victory from Thee! They laid low the schemes of transgressors, and were granted crowns of incorruption.//By their prayers, O God, grant us Thy great mercy!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

Persecuted by tyrants, the martyrs endured and suffered bravely! Near them stood the choirs of angels, holding prizes of victory. In their wisdom they astonished rulers and kings, overthrowing the devil by confessing Christ!//Glory to Thee, O Lord, for Thou made them strong!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

O Virgin Theotokos, good hope of the world, we seek no other help than thee! Have compassion on thy people who have no other protector, and intercede with the merciful God thy Son that He may save our souls from all dangers,//for thou are the only blessed one!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

The memorial of Thy martyrs, O Lord, is like the Paradise of Eden, for it brings joy to all creation!//At their prayers, grant us peace and great mercy.

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

(for the departed)

Truly all is vanity, and life is but a shadow and a dream. Every earthborn mortal troubles himself in vain, as scripture says! When we have gained the whole world, then we depart to the tomb where kings and beggars dwell together. Therefore, O Christ our God, in Thy love for mankind,//give rest to Thy departed servants.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Mother of God and Virgin Mary, thou art the powerful protection and refuge of mankind! Thou gavest birth in time to the timeless Son and Word of God. As a Mother, ceaselessly pray to Him with the prophets, martyrs and holy ascetics,//that He may save the faithful departed.

Octoechos

Tone 6

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

All creation feasts, O Lord, in the memory of Thy saints! Heaven rejoices with angels and earth celebrates with men!//By their prayers, have mercy on us!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Thou freely endured a life-creating death; Thou hast become a source of life for the faithful, giving them eternal joy! Establish in this joy those who have fallen asleep in hope of the Resurrection , in Thy mercy forgiving them all their transgressions, for Thou alone are sinless; Thou alone are good and the Lover of mankind! Then Thy name, O Christ, will be praised by all,//and being saved we shall glorify Thy compassionate love!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

O Christ, rich in mercy, we acknowledge Thee in Thy divine power as Lord of the living and Master of the dead! In Thy love for mankind, Give rest to those who have departed to Thee, their only Benefactor! Make them dwell with Thine elect in a place of refreshment, in the splendor of Thy saints. For it is Thy will to show mercy, and as God Thou savest those whom Thou hast made in Thine own image,//for Thou alone are merciful!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

O All-holy Virgin, Thou wert revealed as God's holy dwelling-place! Thou held God in thy womb and gave birth to God, two in nature and essence, but single in His Person! Pray to Him, the Only-begotten and the First-born, Who kept thee a Virgin without stain even after childbirth, that He may give rest to the souls of those fallen asleep in the faith,//granting them eternal blessedness and glory!

Octoechos
Tone 7
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

Lift up thine eyes, O my soul, and gaze on God's mercy and dispensation: He came down to earth from heaven, to raise thee from the distress of thy passions, and to set thee on the rock of faith! O Great miracle! Thou humbled thyself!//Glory to Thee, O Lover of mankind!

Behold thy lawless deeds, O my soul, and be amazed that the earth still endures thee, that lightning has not struck thee, that wild beasts have not destroyed thee, that the never-setting sun still shines on thee! Arise, repent, and call to the Lord: I have sinned; truly have I sinned!//O Lord, have mercy on me!

Hoping in Thee, we pray to Thee, O almighty Lord: Deliver us from all dangers, passions and distress, that we may pass our life in peace, and living in purity, on the day of judgment,//we may find Thee our kind and merciful Master.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

With the angels, let us sing to the Theotokos, for she gave birth to the Saviour of the world! After His birth she remained a Virgin, and her childbearing saved the world from error. By nourishing with milk the Saviour of our souls,//thou hast given us eternal food.

Octoechos
Tone 7
Sunday Vespers

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Like the prodigal I come and fall before Thee, O Lord: Accept me as one of Thine hired servants,//and have mercy on me, O compassionate One!

Like the man who fell among thieves and was wounded, I have fallen, and my soul is bruised by my many sins. To whom can I, the guilty one, run, if not to Thee, the only merciful Physician of our souls?//Pour out Thy great mercy on me, O God!

(To the martyrs)

Glory to Thee, O Christ God, the apostles' boast and the martyrs' joy,//whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O bride of God! We cry out to thee with the angels. Thou art called the ark, the sacrificial altar, and the gate,//mountain of abundance and burning bush!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Monday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Since repentance will cure thee from all sickness, O my soul, draw near to this house of healing with tears and sighs! Cry out to the Physician of our bodies and souls: O Lord and Lover of mankind, free me from my sins. Number me with the harlot, the thief and the publican;//grant me the forgiveness of my transgressions, O God, and save me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

I have not emulated the repentance of the publican; I have not gained the tears of the harlot. In my blindness I cannot understand how to amend my life

as they did.//But in Thy compassion, O God, save me, as the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O All-holy Virgin, thou art higher in honor than the glorious cherubim! Unable to endure the divine splendor, they veil their faces with their wings to perform their ministry; but thou gaze with thine own eyes upon the incarnate Word!//Pray to Him without ceasing for our souls.

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Thou accepted the tears of Peter and the harlot; Thou justified the publican when he groaned from the depths of his heart! O Saviour, my sins have brought me to despair://Have mercy on me also and save me!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

(to the martyrs)

The saints, O Lord, contended bravely on this earth; they trampled the enemy and overthrew the error of idolatry! Therefore they received crowns from Thee, O loving Master,//the God of all compassion, Who grants us great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Blessed Theotokos, thou art higher than the powers of heaven, for thou became a temple of God://Thou hast given birth to Christ, the Saviour of our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Monday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Saviour, sinner that I am, do not cut me down like the barren fig tree! But grant me the unworthy forgiveness, watering my soul with tears of repentance,//that I may bring forth acts of mercy as fruit offered to Thee!

Since Thou art the sun of righteousness, enlighten and guide the hears of those who cry out to Thee://O Lord, glory to Thee!

(To the martyrs)

As we celebrate the memory of Thy holy winners of victory, we sing Thy praises://O Lord, glory to Thee

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We bring the greeting, Rejoice, to thee, for thou wert revealed as higher than the angels, O Theotokos,//for thou conceived and carried God in thy womb!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Monday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

All compassionate Master and God, according to the judgments Thou hast established, grant that Thy fear may abide in my heart, let me love Thee with all my soul! Let me despise the deeds of the stranger, and to do Thy redeeming will,//for Thou art our God who said: Ask, and thou shall receive!

I have become a laughing stock of the demons, a reproach to mankind, a subject of lament for the just, a source of tears for the angels, an object polluting the earth, air and water, for I have stained my body, soul and mind with deceptions, and have become an enemy of God. Woe is me, I have sinned://O Lord, I have sinned against Thee, forgive me!

I entreat Thee, O Master, to bear with me in my barrenness. Do not cut me down with a death stroke as though I were a tree without fruit, banishing me to the fire, but relent and make me fruitful, O Lover of mankind, and give me time to repent that I may wash away my many sins with tears,//Christ my Saviour.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Blessed Virgin Mary, calm the storm of my laziness, the tempest of indifference which endangers my boat on its way to salvation. Guide me, O Mother of God,//to the still waters in the harbor of repentance.

Octoechos
Tone 7

Monday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

Like the prodigal I come and fall before Thee, O Lord; accept me as one of Thy hired servants,//and have mercy on me, O compassionate One!

As the man who fell among thieves and was wounded, I have fallen, and my soul is bruised by my many sins. To whom can I, the guilty one, run, if not to Thee, the only merciful Physician of our souls?//Pour out Thy great mercy on me, O God!

(To the martyrs)

O Holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received thy crowns, entreat the Lord//that He will have mercy on our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, O Lady, cloud of the reasonable and ineffable sun; Rejoice, lamp filled with light! Rejoice, golden candlestick, for Eve has been delivered from the curse by thee! Since thou hast boldness before thy Son and our God, O most pure one, never cease to plead with Him with thy maternal prayers,//for He will hear thee.

Octoechos
Tone 7

Tuesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Thou accepted the tears of Peter and the harlot; Thou justified the publican when he groaned from the depths of his heart! O Saviour, my sins have brought me to despair://Have mercy on me also and save me!

Verse: Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

Thou washed away Peter's denial with his tears; Thou forgave the publican's sins when he cried to Thee in repentance!//O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou art higher than the heavenly powers, O Theotokos, for thou wert made into a temple of the Godhead://Thou gavest birth to Christ, the Saviour of our souls!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

O Lord, with the hyssop of Thy love and in Thy goodness, wash away the stains of my soul. In Thy mercy, take pity on me: Purify me from the filth of the passions, O Saviour. By the prayers of Thy Forerunner,//save the work of Thy hands, O only compassionate One!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

(to the martyrs)

Rejoice, O righteous and let the heavens be glad, for fighting bravely on earth, the martyrs have brought error to an end! Let the church celebrate a feast of joy and triumph, giving glory to the Judge Who alone grants the victory://Christ our God Who grants the world great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As thou hast compassion on our misery and as thou look upon the inhabitants of the earth, take pity on a helpless people, O Mother of God and blessed Virgin. Hasten to intercede for us lest we meet an unhappy end.//O Holy and spotless Virgin, implore the God of goodness to save our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Saviour, sinner that I am, do not cut me down like the barren fig tree!
But grant me the unworthy forgiveness, watering my soul with tears of repentance,//that I may bring forth acts of mercy as fruit offered to Thee!

Since Thou art the Sun of righteousness, enlighten and guide the hearts of those who cry out to Thee://O Lord, glory to Thee!

In the arenas, before the lawless pagans, the victorious saints cried out with joy://O Lord, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*
To the special melody Today Judas Keeps Watch

From the womb of a barren woman, the voice of the Word felt the grace in thy tender greeting! The Forerunner theologized concerning the Word of God, Whose presence, O maiden, in thy womb, that made him address thee as the bearer of God, through his Mother's tongue by which he compensated for the

deficiency of an infant nature,//and for his lack of the means by which thoughts are given voice!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Tuesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

In days of old, I was banished by a tree from Paradise, and now that Thou hast been crucified, O Christ,//a tree has led me back there.

O What a fearful wonder! the Creator, standing before the creature, is condemned and crucified,//for the salvation of mankind!

O Cross of Christ, thou art the wonder of the holy angels, the mighty wound of demons and evil spirits,//and thou savest thy servants!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Holy Theotokos, who gave birth to the Master who was crucified for us, thou art our defender and our sure hope. As thou art an intercessor for us in our sinfulness,//we beseech thee to pray to Him to save our souls.

Octoechos
Tone 7

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Now that we have Thy cross as our hope, O Lord, we are no longer held back from the tree of life.//Glory to Thee, O Lord!

Hung upon the tree, O immortal Lord, Thou triumphed over the snares of the devil.//Glory to Thee, O Lord!

(To the martyrs)

Despising earthly things, O holy martyrs, and bravely preaching Christ in the arena, thou received from Him the due reward for thy sufferings. Since thou hast boldness before the presence of the almighty God,//we entreat thee to pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

In those days, beholding thy Son upon the tree, thy heart, O most pure Virgin,//was pierced by the sword of grief.

Octoechos
Tone 7

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Worshipping Thee, O Christ our God, the Church, with the cedar, pine and cypress, cries out to Thee: At the prayers of the Theotokos,//grant victory to those in authority and have mercy on us.

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Nailed for my sake to the Cross, in Thy love, O Christ my God//accept my love and early morning rising!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Pray without ceasing, O Theotokos, to Christ our God who was crucified for us and has destroyed the power of death,//for the salvation of our souls.

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

For our sake, Thou suffered the curse of the Cross, O Christ our God;//accept us as we sing of Thy passion, and save our souls, O Lord!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thou despised the godless tyrants, O saints, and scorning all the pain of torture, thou didst not deny thy faith in Christ!//Therefore pray to God, the Lover of mankind, for the salvation of our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Theotokos, ever pray to Christ our God, Who was crucified for us, destroying the power of death,//that He may save our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

As Master, O Lover of mankind, Thou redeemed the world through Thy Cross!//O Lord and Giver of life, glory to Thee!

The sun was darkened, O merciful One, when Thou wert voluntarily crucified for the sake of the world!//O Lord, glory to Thee!

Thou wert lifted up and revealed as lights for the universe O all-praised, suffering saints,//crying to Christ: O Lord, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the blameless Virgin saw Thee voluntarily nailed to the wood//she wept, singing praise to Thy majesty!

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Glorious apostles, thou plowed the whole earth with the plow of the understanding of God//making a great harvest of the faithful to grow!

O Blessed apostles, disperse the storm of my passions,//and enlighten me with the radiance of pure light!

As disciples of the Word, thou led the assembly of nations//from ignorance to the understanding of God.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Blessed Virgin Mary, we beseech thee to pray to thy Son and our God//that He may have mercy on our souls.

Octoechos
Tone 7
Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

O Glorious apostles, pillars of the Church and preachers of the truth, thou art brightly shining lamps, consuming every delusion with the fire of the spirit, and enlightening all mankind with faith! Therefore, we beseech thee, entreat our Saviour and God//that He may grant peace to the world, and salvation to our souls!

O Apostles of Christ, and fellow workers of the Saviour, thou took up thy crosses upon thy shoulders like plows, and cleansing the desolate land of the error of idolatry, thou sowed the word of faith.//We rightly honor thee, O holy apostles of Christ!

(To the martyrs)

O Martyrs, worthy of all praise: sheep of Christ's spiritual flock, thou art a living offering and acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to the O Lord! Though the earth did not cover thee, heaven received thee! Now that thou art companions with the angels, we entreat thee to pray with them to God our Saviour,//that He may grant peace to the world, and salvation to our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We sing the praises of the only woman who remained Virgin after giving birth, for she is the Mother of God,//and we cry out to her: Glory to thee!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Apostles)*

Thou made Thine apostles husbandmen in Thy field, O Word and Master: They mowed down the idols! Preaching Thee to the nations with true faith and reverence,//they have magnified Thee

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!

O Children of the Church, let us celebrate the memory of the all glorious apostles; let us sing in praise of Christ! For by preaching repentance they have saved those guilty of sin; driving out all error, they bring light to the world// and offer intercession for the inhabited earth.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, for the Word took flesh from thee and dwelt among us, while remaining still unchanged! Rejoice, O honored Virgin, joy of the apostles and martyrs; the salvation of the faithful!//Rejoice, O Mother of Christ our God!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the apostles)*

Not cherishing any worldly glory on earth, O glorious apostles, thou preached the God of heaven to mankind//and thou led all people toward Him.

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

We entreat thee, O saints, to intercede for the forgiveness of our sins, and to pray for our deliverance from the torment that awaits us//and from bitter death.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The fruit of thy womb, O divine Bride, became the source of salvation for mankind. Thus, O Mother of God, we the faithful, glorify thee with our lips and hearts//and we magnify thee!

Octoechos

Tone 7 **Thursday Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Glorious apostles, pillars of the Church and preachers of the truth, thou art brightly shining lamps, consuming every delusion with the fire of the Spirit, and enlightening all mankind with faith! Therefore, we beseech thee, entreat our Saviour and God//that He may grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

O Apostles of Christ, and fellow workers of the Saviour, thou took up thy crosses upon thy shoulders like plows, and cleansing the desolate land of the

error of idolatry, thou sowed the Word of faith.//We rightly honor thee, O holy apostles of Christ!

Breathing one purpose and looking to a single hope, vying with each other in their end, the victorious martyrs looked upon death for Christ as the only entry into life! What wonder! Though the torture might be postponed, they seized hold of it as people seize hold of treasure, and they said to one another: If we do not die today, yet some day we shall surely die, obeying as we must the laws of human birth. Let us turn this law into a labor of love, and make willingly our own the common fate of all! So we will purchase life with death!//At their intercessions, O God, have mercy on us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*
To the special melody Today Judas Keeps Watch

Woe is me! I am in utter misery! I have become a house of pleasures! Therefore my enemies ever behold me as a cause for derision. So I fall before thee, O holy Virgin: Behold my affliction and extend thy help to me; cleanse me with tears and protect me, I pray.//Let those who rejoice at my destruction be ashamed, O pure one!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

In order to bring mankind to perfection and make him divine, Thou, O only good One, became mortal and were crucified.//Glory to Thy power, O Christ!

When the assembly of the Jews condemned Thee to the Cross, O Word,//the earth quaked and the sun was darkened.

The wicked assembly crowned Thee with thorns, immortal One,//and Thou, O holy King, destroyed to the root the thorn tree of error!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Holy Theotokos, thou gavest birth to the Master Who was crucified for us; thou art our defender and our sure hope. As thou art the intercessor for us in our sinfulness,//we beseech thee to pray to Him to save our souls.

Octoechos
Tone 7

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Now that we have Thy Cross as our hope, O Lord, we are no longer held back from the tree of life.//Glory to Thee, O Lord!

Hung upon the tree, O immortal Lord, Thou triumphed over the snares of the devil.//Glory to Thee, O Lord!

(To the martyrs)

Glory to Thee, O Christ God, the apostles' boast, the martyrs' joy,//whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the all pure one beheld Thee, nailed of Thine own will to the Cross,//she wept and praised Thy might!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Thou made Thy Cross, O Christ, brighter than any fire, clearer than any flame! It enlightens the hearts of men and burns the sins of those in sickness as they sing the praises of thy voluntary crucifixion.//O Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

O Ruler of the spiritual powers, Thou understand the sloth of my soul.//Save me by Thy Cross, O Christ my God, the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Pray without ceasing, O Theotokos, to Christ our God who was crucified for us and has destroyed the power of death,//for the salvation of our souls.

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

On the tree of the Cross, Thou save us from the ancient curse;//Save us also, O Lord by healing the wounds of our hearts!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thy martyrs, O Lord, defeated the enemy, and armed with the power of the Cross, they put to shame the error of idolatry! Therefore, with the angels, we cry out to Thee, O Christ, giving glory to Thee in a hymn of victory!//At their intercession, we beseech Thee, save us!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Virgin, thou conceived without seed the One Whom thou saw nailed to the Cross.//Ever pray to Him that our souls may be saved.

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

O Lover of mankind, as Master, Thou redeemed the world through Thy Cross!//O Lord and Giver of life, glory to Thee!

O True vine, Thou wert nailed to the Cross! With the thief, the gentiles gathered the fruits of paradise! This is the glory of the Church! This is the wealth of the kingdom!//O Lord Who suffered for our sake, glory to Thee!

(To the martyrs)

As we celebrate in memory of Thy holy martyrs, we sing Thy praises, O Christ,//crying: O Lord, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*
To the special melody Today Judas Keeps Watch

O Long-suffering one, Thou accepted to be crucified and killed like a criminal, in order that through the tree of Thy Cross Thou might lift us up again when we had fallen because of the tree! She who bore Thee was astonished when she saw Thee dead and with groaning the Virgin cried: What unjust madness!//How could the lawless ones slay the righteous One?

Octoechos
Tone 7

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

O Saviour, when Thou come to judge all the world, put me not to shame,//though I have done shameful deeds.

Glory to Thee, O Christ God, the apostles' boast, the martyrs' joy,//whose preaching was the consubstantial Trinity!

O Holy martyrs, who fought the good fight and have received thy crowns, entreat the Lord//that He will have mercy on our souls.

Glory... Now and ever... (Theotokion)

No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing for the order of nature was overruled by God! Thou wert revealed to be a Mother above nature, for thou remained a Virgin beyond reason and understanding! Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos! The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin! Knowing thee to be the Mother of God, devoutly we pray to thee://Beseech Him to save our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

Despising earthly things, O holy martyrs, and bravely preaching Christ in the arena, thou received from him the due reward for thy sufferings. Since thou hast boldness before the presence of the almighty God,//we entreat thee to pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!

O Martyrs, worthy of all praise: Sheep of Christ's spiritual flock, thou art a living offering and acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to the Lord! Though the earth did not cover thee, heaven received thee! Now that thou art companions with the angels, we entreat thee to pray with them to God our Saviour,//that He may grant peace to the world, and salvation to our souls!

(For the departed)

In the beginning, Thou formed man according to Thine image and likeness, placing him in paradise as ruler over Thy creation. But he was deceived through the envy of the devil; he ate the fruit and transgressed Thy

commands. Therefore, O Lord, Thou condemned him to return to the earth from which he was taken,//and to ask for rest.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As the only one who encompassed the boundless One, and gave birth to the incarnate Word of God,//entreat Him that our souls may be saved!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Saturday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

Rejoice, O righteous, and let the heavens be glad! For fighting bravely on earth, the martyrs have brought error to an end! Let the Church celebrate a feast of joy and triumph, giving glory to the Judge Who alone gives the victory://Christ our God Who grants the world great mercy!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

O Saints, thou despised the godless tyrants, and scorning all the pain of tortures, thou did not deny thy faith in Christ! Pray, then, to God Who loves mankind,//for the salvation of our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Since thou art the treasury of our resurrection, O Virgin worthy of all praise, raise up from the pit and from the depth of their sins those who have put their trust in thee! Guilty of sin, they have been saved through thee, for thou hast given birth to our salvation! O Virgin before childbearing and while giving birth,//thou remain a Virgin after giving birth!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

We entreat thee, O martyrs, to intercede for the forgiveness of our sins; pray for our deliverance from all punishment//and from bitter death.

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Give rest, O loving Lord, to Thy servants whose memorial we keep, in the land of the living and in the dwellings of the righteous, pardoning whatever sins they committed in this life, for Thou art a God of compassion, ready to forgive,//granting the world great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, for thou found a place in thy womb for Him Whom the farthest reaches were unable to contain! Rejoice, fulfillment of the teachings of the prophets, O Virgin from whom Emanuel was born://O Mother of Christ our God!

Octoechos
Tone 7

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

Celebrating the memorial of Thy holy martyrs, we sing Thy praises, O Christ!//We cry out: Glory to Thee, O Lord!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Shine upon those who have departed to Thee with the pure joy of Thy beauty and the rays of Thy divine light. In Thy love, count them worthy to dwell in the spiritual radiance of Thy splendor. May they rejoice with the angels before Thee,//the Master, Lord and King of glory!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

There is no end to the splendor of Thy gifts, unfailing treasury of love! As God, accept those who have departed to Thee and make them dwell in the land of Thine elect: In a place of rest, in the house of Thy glory; in the joy of paradise, the bridal chamber of virgins,//for Thou art compassionate!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou bearest the fulfillment of the law: the Deliverer made flesh! For to those before His coming, there was no justification in the law, but Christ crucified for our sakes has justified us! Since thou hast the boldness of a Mother, O Virgin, worthy of all praise, pray to thy compassionate Son that He may give rest to the souls of those who have departed from us//in the true faith!

The Octoechos
Tone 8
Sunday Vespers

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

O Lord, Thou came to call sinners, accepting the thief, the publican, and the prodigal: I have sinned against Thee more than these.//Call me to repentance, O Lover of mankind.

Thou turned tax collectors into pastors of the Church, and the one who persecuted her became her defender! By their prayers, O Saviour, make me one of Thy flock,//preserving me from being devoured by strange and evil passions.

Weep, O my sinful soul; turn to God before the end! Call to him from thy heart, and cry out, O evil-doer: I have sinned before Thee, O Christ. Do not despise me, I pray, but accept me again,//for Thou art merciful and grant forgiveness.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Creation ever offends and bears the curse of the Creator. Pray, O maiden, that I may avoid that fate. Through thy help we accomplish noble deeds,//as we desire forgiveness and salvation.

The Octoechos
Tone 8
Sunday Vespers

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

The angels never cease singing praises to Thee, and I fall before Thee, O King and Master! I cry out like the publican://Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!

Since thou are immortal, O my soul, do not be overwhelmed by the waves of life. Come to thy senses and cry out to the Benefactor: Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!

(To the martyrs)

O Martyrs of the Lord, thou sanctify every place and heal every ill. Now therefore, intercede with Him,//that He may deliver our souls from every wile and snare of the enemy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

The voice of the archangel proclaimed: Rejoice, Mother of God, for thou will give birth to Christ,//the One Who gives life to the world!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Monday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

O Lord, look on my lowliness with a compassionate eye, for there is no salvation for me in my deeds and my life is soon spent!//So I cry: O Lord, look on my lowliness with a compassionate eye and save me!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

Be full of anxious fear, O my soul, as though thee stand in the presence of the Judge; call to mind that dreadful day and hour. The judgment shall be without mercy for those who showed no mercy!//therefore spare me, O Saviour, as the only Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We run to thee with faith, O most pure Theotokos, the spiritual gateway of our life: Deliver us from danger,//that we may glorify thy holy childbearing for the salvation of our souls!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

How long, my soul, will thou live in carelessness? How long will thou continue in thy slothfulness? Wake up, wretched one, from the sleep of laziness; sigh deeply and tremble in fear at the thought of thy deeds! What answer shall thou give for thyself in that hour when the just Judge gives sentence? Without changing thy ways, how will thou be delivered from the fire to come? Call out to the Judge before the end://O Saviour, grant me forgiveness of my sins for Thou alone are merciful!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

God has made thee, O holy martyrs, into spiritual torches! Thou hast dispersed the dark mist of error by the power of faith! Thou made the lamp of thy soul burn brightly, and thou entered with glory into the heavenly bridal chamber in the Bridegroom's company!//Now, we beseech thee, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the archangel understood the mysterious command, he came to the house of Joseph with haste and proclaimed to the unwedded lady: The One Who bowed the heavens by His condescension is contained wholly and without change in thee! As I behold Him in thy womb, taking the form of a Servant, I am frightened, but cry://Rejoice, unwedded Bride!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Monday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

When I grasp with my mind the great number of terrible things I have done, and go in my thoughts to that terrible reckoning, I tremble with fearfulness! I flee for refuge to Thee, O God and Lover of mankind! I humbly pray: Do not turn from me, O sinless Lord,//but grant my lowly soul repentance before the end and save me!

Give me tears, O God, as Thou once did to the woman who had sinned, and thus count me worthy to drench Thy feet—those feet which freed me from the path of error. As fragrant ointment let me offer Thee a life of purity acquired by me through repentance that I too may hear that voice for which I pray, saying://thy faith has saved thee; go in peace!

(To the martyrs)

What shall we call thee, O saints? Cherubim, for Christ rested in thee? Or seraphim, since thou glorify Him ceaselessly? Angels, for thou renounced the flesh? Or powers, since thou perform miracles? Many are thy names, and great are thy gifts!//Pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Unwedded mother, full of grace, the heavenly beings sing praises to thee, and we glorify thine ineffable conceiving!//O Theotokos, intercede that our souls may be saved!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Monday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera of repentance)

I do not have compunction, or a fountain of tears, or the gift of sincere confession. I do not have the weeping that purifies, or humility of heart. I have not emulated the publican, the harlot, or the prodigal son. how then

shall I find remission of my many sins?//But by the judgments Thou hast established, save me, O Christ.

I have estranged myself from every divine commandment, neglecting completely the better virtues. I have senselessly spent my whole life in laziness, and all my deeds have been unrighteous and evil.//Therefore have compassion on me, and save me, O merciful Christ.

O Good one, do not rebuke me in anger, even though I have torn myself away from Thee with my irrational mind, for I am the work of Thy hands. Thou made me in Thy likeness//in the depth of Thy compassion, O Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We put all our trust in thee, O Theotokos. Protect us beneath thy veil and keep us from all evil afflictions. Save us and have mercy on us,//interceding for us before thy Son and our God.

Octoechos
Tone 8

Monday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

The angels never cease singing praises to Thee, and I fall before Thee, O King and Master! I cry out like the publican://Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!

Since thou art immortal, O my soul, do not be overwhelmed by the waves of life. Come to thy senses and cry out to the Benefactor://Be merciful to me, O God, and save me!

(To the martyrs)

Entreat our God, O martyrs of the Lord, and beseech great bounties for our souls,//and purification of our many transgressions!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, pride of the universe; Rejoice, temple of the Lord! Rejoice, over-shadowed mountain, Rejoice, refuge of all mankind! Rejoice, golden candlestick; Rejoice, precious glory of the Orthodox! rejoice, Mary, mother of Christ our God; Rejoice, tabernacle and paradise! Rejoice, table of divinity; Rejoice, O golden vessel!//Rejoice, for thou art the hope of all!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Tuesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

I fall down before Thee like the harlot, O Christ my God begging to receive forgiveness; In place of ointment I offer Thee the tears from my heart! Have mercy on me, O Saviour, as Thou didst on her; grant me the remission of my sins!//For like her, I cry to Thee: Deliver me from the filthiness of my deeds!

Verse: O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger!

Keep watch, O my soul, and bear in mind that fearful day! Kindle thy lamp and make it burn bright with the oil of compassion! For thou do not know when thou will hear the cry: Behold the Bridegroom! Stay awake, then, my soul, and do not slumber, lest thee be left outside, knocking at the door like the five virgins. Continue awake and go out to meet Christ thy God with the rich oil of mercy in thy lamp.//May He grant thee the divine bridal chamber of His glory!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Faithful, let us magnify the Theotokos in hymns: the unshakeable foundation of the faith; the precious gift that is granted to our souls! Rejoice, for thou held within thy womb the rock of life! Rejoice, hope of all the ends of the earth and helper of the afflicted!//Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of repentance)*

Having spent thy life in laziness, awake, O my soul and seek repentance! Weep bitterly from the depths of thy heart while thou art here, before thou art there, lamenting uselessly. Tremble as thou meditate upon the second coming of the Master! Pass judgment on thyself before the judgment//and thou shall escape His righteous punishment!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Today the tabernacle shines with heavenly light, for within it all the hosts of angels celebrate! Together with them the martyrs rejoice at the memory of their victorious sufferings!//At their prayers, O Christ, send down on Thy world peace and great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Lady, I rightly offer thee my everlasting thanksgiving for all thy gifts, like the widow who offered her two poor mites. For thou hast shown thyself to be my protector and my helper, ever lifting me out of temptations and affliction. Therefore, as if breaking through the living fire of my oppressors, I cry to thee: O Theotokos, be my help! Intercede with thy Son and God that He may grant remission of my sins//for the hope of thy servant rests in thee!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Tuesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera of repentance)

When I grasp with my mind the great number of terrible things I have done, and go in my thoughts to that terrible reckoning, I tremble with fearfulness! I flee for refuge to Thee, O God and Lover of mankind! I humbly pray: Do not turn from me, O sinless Lord,//but grant my lowly soul repentance before the end and save me!

Give me tears, O God, as Thou once did to the woman who had sinned, and thus count me worthy to drench Thy feet—those feet which freed me from the path of error. As fragrant ointment let me offer Thee a life of purity acquired by me through repentance that I too may hear that voice for which I pray, saying://thy faith has saved thee; go in peace!

(To the martyrs)

O Saints, thou bound thyselves to noble tasks, enduring the tortures of the lawless steadfastly, confessing Christ before the kings. After departing from life, thou still act in the world, healing the sick of their passions.//O Saints, pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Holy Virgin Theotokos, I run to thy protection knowing I shall find salvation there,//for thou hast the power to help me, pure one!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Tuesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Thou were crucified upon the Cross, O Christ most good. Thy hands and feet were nailed; Thy holy side pierced with a spear, pouring out on me drops of divine salvation, blood and water to cleanse my sores and filth.//Glory to Thy goodness, O all compassionate Lord!

O Master, Thou bore suffering, to grant freedom from passion to those who venerate Thy passion. And Thou willingly endured in Thy forbearance going of Thine own will to the slaughter, and the spear, the nails, and the reed. Intercede then, O Lord, that I also on account of Thy passion//may obtain freedom from passion.

The undefiled maiden, beholding her Son raised of His own will upon the Cross, cried out, weeping and pricked to the heart: Woe is me, O my well-beloved Child! How has the thankless congregation of Jews repaid Thee, wishing to bereave me of Thee,//my Child Whom I so greatly love!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the Virgin saw her Son being led to the slaughter, she followed him to the Cross and cried: O My sweetest child, what will happen to Thee? Thou knowest that we long to be with Thee,//for we know Thou to be our King and our God!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Tuesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Raised upon the Cross, O Christ our God, Thou hast saved mankind.//We glorify Thy sufferings!

Crucified upon the Cross, O Christ our God, Thou hast opened the gates of paradise.//We glorify Thy divinity!

(To the martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, forgetting the things of this life, and enduring tortures for the sake of the life to come, were shown to be its inheritors, and now they rejoice with the angels!//By their prayers grant Thy people great mercy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When she beheld Thee nailed upon the Cross, O long suffering Lord, Thy Mother mourned and wept. Amazed at Thy surpassing goodness, and Thy compassion and as Thou gavest beyond human nature,//she sang the praises of Thy power!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Wednesday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

When the thief beheld the author of life hanging upon the Cross, he cried out: If Thou wert not the incarnate God, crucified here with us, then the sun would not have hid its rays, neither would the earth have shaken with trembling! But as Thou suffer for all mankind: remember me, O Lord,//when Thou comest into Thy kingdom!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

In the midst of two thieves, Thy Cross was revealed as a beam of righteousness; for while the one was led down to hell by the burden of his blaspheming, the other was lightened of his sins unto the knowledge of things divine.//O Christ our God, glory to Thee!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When she who bore Thee beheld Thee, the Lamb and Shepherd and Saviour of the world, hanging upon the Cross, she cried out weeping: Though the world rejoices in its redemption, my being burns as I behold Thy crucifixion,//which Thou suffer for all mankind, O my Son and my God!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

The tree of Eden once caused bitterness, but the tree of the Cross made sweetness of life to blossom! In tasting the first, Adam fell into corruption, but as we eat the body of Christ we are given life and mystically deified, receiving

God's eternal kingdom.//Therefore we cry out in faith: Glory to Thy suffering, Lord!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thou steadfastly walked the narrow way of sorrow, O holy martyrs, enduring the troubled waters of temptation. Now thou hast received a dwelling place with the ministering angels, for thou proved themselves a rock of patient strength; a firm foundation of the faith!//Pray to Christ our God for the salvation of our souls!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Standing by the Cross, the Theotokos, filled with compassion, poured out her tears and cried aloud: O My Son, Thy passion is beyond comprehension! I cannot bear this wound in my heart, nor can I look upon Thee on the Cross! Do not reject Thy handmaid: arise from the dead and glorify me as I cry out to Thee://Glory to Thee, O God of tenderness!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Wednesday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

The staff of Moses prefigured Thy precious Cross, for through Thy Cross, our Saviour,// Thou savest Thy people as from the depths of the sea of sin, O Lover of mankind!

In ancient time, the paradise in Eden put forth the tree of knowledge in the midst of the garden. Now Thy Church, O Christ, has put forth Thy Cross as a flower making life spring up for the world! The one tree, by its food, killed Adam when he tasted of it; the other gave life to the thief when he was saved through faith! Make us sharers of the forgiveness that he gained, Christ God, Who by Thy passion have destroyed the enemy's fury against us,//and count us worthy of Thy heavenly kingdom!

(To the Martyrs)

O Invincible martyrs of Christ, thou defeated deceit with the power of the Cross and received the grace of eternal life! The threats of thy torturers, thou did not fear! Thou wert glad at being wounded by them, and now that thy blood is the healing of our souls,//pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

When the ewe lamb who bore Thee without seed, O Lord, saw Thee fastened to the tree, she rebuked her weeping eyes and cried aloud with tears: O My son, how do Thou endure this wicked slaughter? How can Thou die as Man, O immortal One? Give me a word, O sweetest light. Behold Thy mother lamenting Thee,//and glorify her by Thy rising, O Word!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Wednesday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the apostles)

Thou hast enlightened the apostles, O Lord, with the brightness of the comforter. Thou set them as lamps radiant with the light of Thy knowledge, spiritually shining upon the world, O Master.//We worship Thy great goodness!

Thou preserve Thy flock unharmed by the temptations of the enemy, surrounding it with the prayers of the apostles as with a wall. O Saviour, Thou hast purchased it with Thy precious blood setting it free from bondage to the stranger//because of Thy compassion.

O Blessed apostles, great defenders of the Trinity and intercessors for our souls, thou appear as precious stones of gleaming splendor set in the crown of the Church of Christ,//brightly illumining the world with the light of the knowledge of God.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Look upon thy servants, O Bride of God. Behold us as we pray and sing to thee. Our hymns are songs of praise to thee,//for thou art the salvation of the human race.

Octoechos
Tone 8

Wednesday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

The apostles loved Thee with sincerity on earth! They counted all things as refuse that they might win Thee alone! They surrendered their bodies to torture for Thy sake.//Now in glory, they pray for our souls!

O Lord, Thou hast magnified the memory of the apostles on earth and now in their memory we all glorify Thee, since for their sake Thou grant us healing.//by their prayers granting the world peace and great mercy!

(To the martyrs)

Fame and praise befits the saints, for they bowed their necks beneath the sword for Thy sake, who bowed the heavens and came down. They shed their blood for Thee, for Thou emptied Thyself and took the form of a Servant. By emulating Thy poverty they too humbled themselves even unto death. By their prayers have mercy on us, O God,//according to the abundance of Thy great mercies.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Those who were worthy to behold God in the flesh proclaimed thee to be a Bride and a Virgin, O Maiden, worthy of the Father and His divinity. They proclaimed thee to be the Mother of God the Word, and the dwelling of the Holy Spirit, for the whole of divinity, the full and perfect Essence of grace,//

bodily dwelt in thee!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Thursday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Apostles)*

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishermen as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; and through them Thou hast fished the universe//O Lover of mankind, glory to Thee!

Verse: Their voice has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe!

Let us sing the praises of the holy disciples of our God! They are burning torches, guides to all the world, the first-fruits of our salvation. They have caused the light to shine on us in darkness and have made known to all the Sun of glory! They have destroyed the error of idolatry, preaching the Trinity in one Godhead. Therefore we entreat them: O Apostles of Christ our God, intercede for the forgiveness of our sins,//as we celebrate thy holy memory with love!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Rejoice, for thou accepted from the angel the joy of the world! Rejoice, for thou hast borne the Creator and Lord!//Rejoice, for thou wert deemed worthy to be the Mother of God!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(to the apostles)*

Thou caught men, like fish, in the net of thy divine teachings and thou offered them as first-fruits to our God! Wishing to bear the wounds of Christ, thou became imitators of His passion. As we gather today to fittingly celebrate thy solemn memory, glorious apostles, we cry out with one voice: Intercede before Christ our God//that He may grant forgiveness of sins to us who celebrate thy holy memory with love!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

Thou contended bravely to the end, O holy martyrs; thou withstood the tyrants; thou put thy bodies to death on this earth,//and so were rewarded with the life of heaven!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O All pure Virgin, behold my wretched and shipwrecked soul, without a rudder in the storm of life and waves of temptation. I am visibly swamped by the burden of my sins and in danger of sinking into the depths of Hell! O Mother of God, as the guide to the harbor of peace, hasten to save me by thy fervent intercession, that I may cry out to thee: Intercede before Christ our God,//that He may grant forgiveness of my sins, for thou are my hope and I am thy servant!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Thursday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the apostles)

The apostles loved Thee with sincerity on earth! They counted all things as refuse that they might win Thee alone! They surrendered their bodies to torture for Thy sake.//Now in glory, they pray for our souls!

O Lord, Thou hast magnified the memory of the apostles on earth, and now in their memory we all glorify Thee, since for their sake Thou grant us healing,//by their prayers granting the world peace and great mercy!

(to the martyrs)

Clothed in the armor of faith, armed with the sign of the Cross, thou wert soldiers who were worthy of God. Manfully thou opposed the torturers, crushing the devil's deceits. Thou wert victors, made worthy of crowns.//Pray to Christ for us that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Accept the prayers of thy servants, O Lady;//deliver us from all danger and necessity!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Thursday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the Cross)
To the special melody O Most Strange Wonder

O Most strange wonder! The most holy Cross, the life-giving Tree is lifted up on high today and shown to the world. All the ends of the earth give glory; all the devils are frightened. How great a gift is here bestowed on mortals! Through Thy Cross, save our souls, O Christ,//the only compassionate One!

O Most strange wonder! The Cross, which carried the Most High as a cluster of grapes full of life is seen today exalted high above the earth. Through the Cross we are all drawn to God and death has been forever swallowed up. Undefiled Wood, through thee we enjoy the immortal fruit of Eden,//as we glorify Christ!

How great, O Christ God, is Thy goodness towards us! How hast Thou humbled Thyself becoming a Man? How hast Thou deigned to suffer, enduring the Cross and a shameful death for the sake of us worthless servants? What gift worthy and fit for God can we offer Thee?//We faithful in thanksgiving can only give Thee glory!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Master, when Thy Mother beheld Thee being nailed to the Cross, she wept and cried out, saying: My sweetest Child, how unjustly Thou suffer! Thou art wounded by lawless men//whom Thou came to save in Thy mercy!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Thursday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(Stikhera to the Cross)

Raised upon the Cross, O Christ our God, Thou hast saved mankind.//We glorify Thy sufferings!

Crucified upon the Cross, O Christ our God, Thou hast opened the gates of paradise.//We glorify Thy divinity!

(To the martyrs)

O Martyrs of the Lord, thou sanctify every place and heal every ill. Now therefore, intercede with Him,//that He may deliver our souls from every wile and snare of the enemy!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

As she beheld Thee crucified and dying, the Theotokos cried out: Woe is me! How do Thou endure pain, O my sweetest Son? The spear in Thy side pierces my heart, and Thy suffering sets my being on fire. Therefore I sing Thy praises,//for Thou suffer willingly to save mankind!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Friday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

In the midst of Eden, a tree put forth the flower of death; in the midst of the universe, a tree has flowered with life! Eating from the first tree, we who were

immortal fell into corruption; through the second tree, incorruption is bestowed on us again,//for by the Cross, O God, Thou savest mankind!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy!

Of old, in Paradise, a tree stripped me bare; by giving me its fruit to eat, the enemy brought in death. But now the tree of the Cross has been set up on the earth: It clothes mankind with the garment of life and the whole world is filled with boundless joy! People, beholding it exalted, let us cry out together in faith to God://His house is filled with glory!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Christ took flesh from thy pure womb, O holy Virgin. He was born of thee in ways beyond our understanding! As thou saw Him hang on the Cross between two evildoers, thy heart was filled with anguish and thou cried out with a Mother's grief: Woe is me, O my Child! What is this divine and ineffable act of Thy loving providence, by which Thou hast restored Thy creature to life?//I sing the praises of Thy deep compassion!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn *(of the Cross)*

Seduced by the hope of becoming like God, our first Father became the cause of universal corruption for his descendants. But in Thy supreme goodness, Thou willed through Thy Cross to pour out streams of life. Thou allowed Thyself to be nailed to save us from the first condemnation!//Therefore, Christ, we sing of Thy voluntary passion!

Verse: Wonderful is God in His saints: the God of Israel!

The martyrs of Christ put to death the fiery impulses of passion through their self-denial. They received the grace to drive out diseases from the sick and to work miracles both when alive and after death. O Marvelous wonder, their relics are a source of healing!//Glory to the only wise Creator and God!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

Thou became Man by the blood of my womb and by pouring out Thy blood, Thou deify mankind! In Thy great goodness, Thou hast come down to search for those who had tasted death beneath the forbidden tree! So cried the pure Virgin in tears, seeing Christ hung upon the Cross. Before His death, she poured forth streams of tears.//Her heart was torn as she magnified her Son as God!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Friday **Matins**

Apostikha

(Of the Cross)

The staff of Moses prefigured Thy precious Cross, for through Thy Cross, O our Saviour,//Thou savest Thy people as from the depths of the sea, Lover of mankind!

In ancient time, the Paradise in Eden put forth the tree of knowledge in the midst of the garden. Now Thy Church, O Christ, has put forth Thy Cross as a flower making life spring up for the world! The one tree, by its food, killed Adam when he tasted of it; the other gave life to the thief when he was saved through faith! Make us sharers of the forgiveness that he gained, O Christ God, Who by Thy passion have destroyed the enemy's fury against us,//and count us worthy of Thy heavenly kingdom!

(To the martyrs)

What shall we call thee, O saints? Cherubim, for Christ rested in thee? Or seraphim, since thou glorify Him ceaselessly? Angels, for thou renounced the flesh? Or powers, since thou perform miracles? Many are thy names, and great are thy gifts!//Pray that our souls may be saved!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Marvelous wonder! Fearful mystery! How can He Who is immortal by nature be hung upon the tree? How can He now taste of death? How is the guiltless One condemned? O Sun, hide thy light, and tremble, beholding this recklessness! Cried the Virgin with sighs and groans,//as she saw Christ, her own Son, being crucified.

Octoechos
Tone 8

Friday **Vespers**

"Lord I Call..."

(Stikhera to the martyrs)

Thy martyrs, O Lord, forgetting the things of this life, and enduring tortures for the sake of the life to come, were shown to be its inheritors, and now they rejoice with the angels!//By their prayers, grant Thy people great mercy!

Fame and praise befits the saints! For they bowed their necks beneath the sword for Thy sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down. They shed blood for Thee, Who emptied Thyself and took the form of a Servant! By emulating Thy poverty, they too humbled themselves even to death. By their prayers, have mercy on us, O God,//according to the abundance of Thy great mercies!

(For the departed)

When Thou sit in Thy glory as King of all upon the throne of judgment, with Thy holy angels standing in fear beside Thee, O Christ, and all mankind comes to appear before Thee to be judged: then at the prayers of Thy Mother, O Lord,//deliver from all torment those who have fallen asleep in the faith!

Glory... Now and ever...*(Theotokion)*

The King of heaven, because of His love for mankind, appeared on earth and dwelt with men. He took flesh from the pure Virgin and after assuming it, He came forth from her. The Son is one: two natures, yet one Person. Proclaiming

Him as perfect God and perfect Man, we confess Christ our God!//Entreat Him, unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Friday **Vespers**

Apostikha

(To the martyrs)

Entreat our God, O martyrs of the Lord, and beseech great bounties for our souls,//and purification of our many transgressions!

(To the departed)

In tears and sorrow I contemplate death; I see our beauty, created in God's image, laid in the grave without form, or honor, or comeliness. Great mystery and fearful end awaiting us! How have we been handed over to corruption? How has death been wedded to us? Truly, as it is written, it is by the commandment of God,//Who grants rest to the departed!

Thy death, O Lord, has been the means of immortality, for if Thou had not been placed in the grave, Paradise would not have been opened.//Therefore give rest to the departed as the Lover of mankind!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Pure Virgin, the gate of the word, and Mother of our God://Pray that we may be saved!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Saturday **Matins**

(After the 1st reading of the Psalter):

Sessional Hymn *(to the martyrs)*

God made thee into spiritual torches, O holy martyrs! By the power of faith thou disperse the dark mist of error; thou made the lamp of thy soul burn brightly, and in the company of the Bridegroom thou hast entered with glory into the heavenly bridal chamber!//Now we entreat thee, intercede for the salvation of our souls!

Verse: God is wonderful in His saints; the God of Israel!

Suffering a martyr's death in faith, O saints, thou became ever-burning stars that shine on all the earth! Having placed thy whole trust in the Lord, thou made the lamps of thy souls burn brightly with the invisible oil of the Spirit! Pouring out thy blood, thou became a chalice that brings refreshment to the Church! O All-praised, victorious martyrs, offer intercession to Christ our God, that we who celebrate thy holy memory with love//may receive forgiveness of our sins!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

We have thee as a wall and a haven and an intercessor before God Whom thou hast borne,//O Virgin Theotokos, the salvation of the faithful!

(After the final reading from the Psalter)

Sessional Hymn (to all the saints)

O Prophets, martyrs of Christ and holy hierarchs who have fought the good fight according to the rules of the faith and have received from God eternally unfading crowns: Ever intercede for us that in His goodness,//He may grant us the forgiveness of our sins through His divine favor!

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

Only Creator, with wisdom profound, Thou mercifully order all things, and give that which is needed to all men: Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy servants who have fallen asleep, for they have placed their trust in Thee, our Maker and Fashioner, and our God.

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Good One, for our sake Thou wert born of a Virgin. Thou suffered crucifixion, and despoiled death through death and as God Thou revealed the Resurrection: Do not despise those whom Thou hast created with Thine own hand! Show forth Thy love for mankind, O merciful One!//Accept the prayers of the Theotokos, and save Thy despairing people!

Octoechos
Tone 8

Saturday **Matins**

Apostikha

(to the martyrs)

What shall we call thee, O saints? Cherubim, for Christ rested in thee? Or seraphim, since thou glorify Him ceaselessly? Angels, for thou renounced the flesh? Or powers, since thou perform miracles? Many are thy names, and great are thy gifts!//Pray that our souls may be saved!

(for the departed)

Verse: Blessed are those whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord!

With royal authority, O Master, Thou signed the charter of my freedom in the purple of Thy blood! And now I pray to Thee with faith: In Thy compassion, give rest to those who have gone to dwell with Thee; number them with Thy first-born,//counting them worthy to share in the joy of the righteous!

Verse: Their memorial is from generation to generation!

Fulfilling priestly mediation as Man, sacrificed as a lamb, Thou redeemed mankind from corruption, offering it as an oblation to the Father! Now in Thy love make the departed dwell in the land of the living,//where streams of joy flow with the fountains of eternal life!

Glory... Now and ever... *(Theotokion)*

O Mother of God, since Thou conceived the eternal Word of God the Father, pray fervently with a Mother's boldness that He may establish thy servants in the eternal choir of all who exult and praise thee, in a place of everlasting light,//in the midst of the joyful sound of those who feast!

The Daily Theotokia for the Eight Tones

(From Sunday Vespers to Saturday Matins)

Octoechos
Tone One
Daily Theotokia

Monday (Sunday evening)

Creation exults, O full of grace, because it beheld in thee a wonder of wonders! For thou conceived without seed and ineffably gave birth to Him upon Whom the commanders of the hosts of angels dare not gaze://Beseech Him that our souls may be saved!

Tuesday & Thursday (Monday & Wednesday evenings)

O Theotokos, full of grace, thou conceived the fire of divinity without being burned, and thou bore the Lord, the Fount of life!//Save from death those who magnify thee!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday evenings)

We have acquired thy protection, O immaculate one: we have been redeemed by thy supplications, and we have always been guarded by the Cross of thy Son.//Therefore we all rightly magnify thee!

Tone 1 Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings:

Rejoice, O most pure Theotokos and unwedded Bride,//thou art blessed in the heavens and glorified on earth!

Tuesday & Saturday mornings:

Beyond speech and understanding, without a father, O Theotokos, thou bore the One Who is without mother in heaven://Beseech Him to save our souls!

Octoechos
Tone Two
Daily Theotokia

Monday (Sunday Evening)

Thou art a fountain of compassion, O Theotokos: behold a sinful people, and grant mercy to us! Reveal, as always, thy might! As we trust in thee, we cry out: Rejoice!//As once did Gabriel, the leader of the heavenly hosts!

Tuesday & Thursday (Monday & Wednesday Evenings)

Through thee, O ever-Virgin Theotokos, we have become partakers of the divine nature, for thou gavest birth to the incarnate God for our sake.//Therefore we all devoutly magnify thee!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday Evenings)

Thou are most glorious, O Virgin Theotokos! We praise thee, for through the Cross of thy Son, hell is laid low and death is slain! We who were dead in sin have risen, and have been granted life! We have obtained Paradise, our former delight! Therefore we thank and glorify Christ our God,//for He alone is mighty and great in mercy.

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday & Saturday Mornings:

O Holy Mother of the ineffable Light, honoring thee with the hymns of the angels,//we rightly magnify thee!

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings:

We magnify thee, and cry out, O Theotokos: Rejoice, cloud of the never-setting light,//for thou carried the Lord of glory in thy womb!

Wednesday & Friday Mornings:

O Theotokos, we magnify thee, and cry out: Rejoice! For thou art the staff from which sprang forth without seed//the God Who destroyed death on the tree.

Octoechos
Tone Three
Daily Theotokia

Monday (Sunday Evening)

When Gabriel greeted thee, O Virgin, he cried out like the righteous David, for in thee, O sacred ark, was the Master of all incarnate. Thou wert manifest as more spacious than the heavens, for thou bore thy Creator! Glory to Him Who dwells in thee! Glory to Him Who comes forth from thee!// Glory to Him Who frees us through thy Child!

Tuesday (Monday Evening)

O Theotokos, thou art our shelter and our strength, protecting the world with power! Protect thy servants from all dangers by thy intercessions//O only blessed one!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday Evenings)

O Theotokos, we have obtained the Cross of thy Son as a powerful rod, to strike down the boasting of the enemy://Therefore we exalt thee forever!

Thursday (Wednesday Evening)

The prophets have foretold, the apostles taught the martyrs professed, and we have believed that thou art indeed the Mother of God://Therefore we exalt thine ineffable childbearing!

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday Mornings:

One runs with haste to where one finds salvation, and what refuge have we other than thee,//O Theotokos, the shelter of our souls.

Wednesday & Friday Mornings:

O Theotokos, our power and our shield, the mighty help of the world, shelter thy servants from all calamity by thy prayers,//for thou alone art blessed!

Saturday Morning:

The prophets have foretold, the apostles taught, the martyrs professed, and we have believed. that thou art indeed the Mother of God://therefore we exalt thine ineffable childbearing!

The Octoechos
Daily Theotokia
Tone Four

Monday (Sunday evening)

Being raised in the temple in the Holy of Holies, thou wert adorned with faith and wisdom. Attaining the crown of virginity, the archangel Gabriel delivered these heavenly greetings to thee: Rejoice, rejoice! O Blessed one, rejoice!//All glorified one, the Lord is with thee!

Tuesday (Monday evening)

Let us, the sinful and unworthy, flee fervently to the Theotokos! Let us fall down in repentance, crying from the depths of our souls! Help us and have mercy on us, O Lady! Help us, for we are perishing from our many sins.//Do not turn away thy poor servants, for thou art our only hope!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday evenings)

O All blameless Virgin Mother of Christ God: thy most holy soul was pierced by a sword when thou beheld thy Son and God willfully crucified. Therefore never cease to pray to Him, O all blessed one,//that He may grant us remission of our sins.

Thursday (Wednesday evening)

The Word of the Father, even Christ our God, was truly incarnate of thee, Virgin Theotokos, the only pure and blessed one.// Therefore we ceaselessly magnify thee in song!

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday & Thursday mornings:

We have no way to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos, for thou art the height of creation.//We beseech thee to grant us thy gracious mercy.

Tuesday & Saturday mornings:

We cry out and magnify thee, O Theotokos: Thou art the unconsumed bush in which Moses saw, as a flame,//the fire of divinity.

Wednesday & Friday mornings:

We cry out and magnify thee, O Theotokos: thou art the mountain from which the Stone was ineffably hewn,//which destroyed the gates of hell!

Octoechos
Daily Theotokia
Tone Five

Monday (Sunday Evening)

We cry to thee exultingly with the angels, with mankind on earth: Rejoice, gate wider than heaven! Rejoice, only salvation of the human race! Rejoice, honored lady, O full of grace,//for thou gavest birth to the incarnate God!

Tuesday (Monday Evening)

Show forth thy ready protection, O Theotokos, thy help and mercy to thy servants. In thy purity, calm the storms of my empty thoughts, and raise up my wounded soul,//for I know, O Virgin, that thou can do all thou desire.

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday Evenings)

Let the error of idolatry be destroyed through the might of the Cross of thy Son, and the power of demons be trampled, O Lady all pleasing to God! Therefore we faithful ever sing humbly to thee, we bless and exalt thee,//professing that thou art truly the Mother of God!

Thursday (Wednesday Evening)

The wonderful mystery of the Virgin was the salvation revealed to the world, for Thou, O Lord, wert born of her without human seed, and appeared in the flesh without corruption, the Joy of all!/O Lord, glory to Thee!

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday, **Wednesday**, **Friday & Saturday Mornings**:

Thou hast shown forth to the world from a Virgin, O Christ our God, through her, making us sons of light!//O Lord, have mercy on us.

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings:

Thou art the fortress of Christians, O most holy Theotokos! Ever deliver thy people who always cry out to thee: Resist all shameful and arrogant thoughts,//that we may cry: Rejoice, ever Virgin!

The Octoechos
Daily Theotokia
Tone Six

Monday (Sunday Evening)

Gabriel's annunciation to the Virgin was the beginning of salvation, for she heard the greeting and did not flee from the salutation, nor did she doubt as did Sarah in the tent. Instead she proclaimed: Behold the handmaid of the Lord;//Be it unto me according to Thy word!

Tuesday (Monday Evening)

O Virgin Theotokos, good hope of the world, we seek no other help than thy power! Have compassion on thy people who have no other protector, and

intercede with the merciful God that He may save our souls from all dangers,// for thou art the only blessed one!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday Evenings)

O Virgin Theotokos, pray to thy Son, Christ our God, Who delivered the world from error when He willingly accepted crucifixion,//that He may have mercy on our souls!

Thursday (Wednesday Evening)

O Holy and pure Lady, Virgin Theotokos, thou ineffably gave birth to the Creator of all: Together with the apostles, pray without ceasing to His mercy that He may save us from our passions,// and grant us remission of our sins!

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday Morning

As thou received, O Theotokos, the word of the archangel, thou wert revealed as the cherubic throne://Thou bore in thine arms the Hope of our souls!

Tuesday Morning

No one who runs to thee, O purest Virgin Theotokos, departs in shame.//Asking for grace, he receives the gift of his worthy request.

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday Mornings

In these latter times, thou bore the Son and Word of God, He Who was begotten from the Father without a Mother before the ages. He was incarnate of thy pure blood, O Theotokos, without seed of man.//Beseech Him that remission of sins be granted us before the end!

Thursday Mornings

O Pure Virgin Mother of God, thou wert found worthy of great gifts, for thou bore in the flesh One of the Trinity,// Christ the Giver of life, for the salvation of our souls!

The Octoechos
Daily Theotokia
Tone Seven

Monday (Sunday Evening)

O Undefiled Virgin Theotokos, with the powers of heaven, pray to thy Son that before their end, He may grant to those who faithfully glorified Him//the forgiveness of their sins.

Tuesday (Monday Evening)

O Theotokos, we greet thee, for thou wert manifested as higher than the angels,//when thou carried God in thy womb!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday)

O Virgin Theotokos, intercede without ceasing to Christ God Who was crucified for us and destroyed the power of death//that He may save our souls!

Thursday (Wednesday Evening)

The Fruit of thy womb, O pure one, is the perfect fulfillment of the law and of the prophets! Therefore, O Theotokos, we glorify thee with thanks/and exalt thee with great devotion!

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday Mornings

Thou surpassed the powers of heaven, O blessed Theotokos, for thou showed thyself to be a divine temple,//as thou bore Christ the Saviour of our souls.

Tuesday Mornings

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, grant peace to our lives,//as we cry out to Thee: Glory to Thee, O merciful Lord!

Wednesday & Friday Mornings

Deliver us, O Theotokos, from the sins which grip us, for we, the faithful have no other hope than thee,//and God Who was born of thee, O woman worthy of all praise!

The Octoechos
Tone Eight
Daily Theotokia

Monday (Sunday Evening)

Rejoice, for thou accepted from the angel the joy of the world! Rejoice, for thou hast borne the Creator and Lord!//Rejoice, for thou wert deemed worthy to be the Mother of God!

Tuesday (Monday Evening)

We the faithful magnify the Theotokos, the stable foundation of the faith and precious gift for our souls! Rejoice, for thou held in thy womb the Rock of life! Rejoice, hope of the world and protection of the afflicted!//Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Wednesday & Friday (Tuesday & Thursday Evenings)

O Lamb, the Shepherd and Saviour of the world, Thy Mother saw Thee hanging on the Cross, she cried: Though the world rejoices in its redemption, my being burns as I behold Thy crucifixion,//which Thou endure for all men, my Son and my God!

Thursday (Wednesday Evening)

O Pure Theotokos and gate of eternal life: save from danger those who run to thee with faith//to glorify thy holy childbearing for the salvation of our souls!

Matins Dismissal Theotokia

Monday Mornings

Rejoice, O gate of the King of glory, for through thee the Most High alone has passed.//He left thee sealed again, for the salvation of our souls!

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday Mornings

Since thou hast motherly compassion, O most pure Virgin,//save us by thy prayers to thy Son and our God!

Wednesday & Friday Mornings

The Fruit of thy womb, O purest one, is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets!//We rightly glorify Him, O Theotokos, and we magnify thee.